



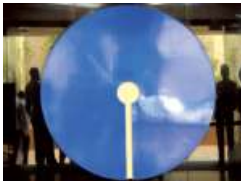
SC agrees to examine disqualified MLAs' plea for interim relief

page 8



If it wins in Haryana, Congress will have four Deputy CMs: Hooda

page 12



SBI to link floating rate retail, MSME loans to repo rate

page 15

Harmanpreet's India takes on Luus' South Africa in first T20I today

page 18



NEARBY



Tender floated for 50 lakh anti-pollution masks

NEW DELHI

The government has floated a tender for procurement of around 50 lakh anti-pollution masks to be distributed to the public under a plan which was earlier announced by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, officials said. "We are yet to take a final call on how to distribute them but we are considering getting it done through schools," a government official said.

CITY ► PAGE 3

**GUIDANCE IAS**  
GEOGRAPHY OPTIONAL  
By HIMANSHU SIR  
OPEN SEMINAR 28 Sept.  
11 a.m.  
011-45586629/9718793363

Maradu: SC slams Kerala top official

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday slammed Kerala Chief Secretary Tom Jose for "patent breach of law" by the State in allowing illegal structures like the Maradu high-rise apartments to come up along a fragile coastal zone even as thousands perish or are rendered homeless by natural tragedies like floods which devastate the State.

Justice Arun Mishra, accompanied by Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, spoke directly to Mr. Jose, who was present in the crowded courtroom. "We can prosecute you for culpable negligence," Justice Mishra addressed Mr. Jose in court.

Affidavit inadequate

The court also declared an affidavit filed by Mr. Jose "wholly unsatisfactory" and a reflection of the government's intention not to have a concrete plan to prevent encroachments along the coastal zone, despite the frequent recurrence of natural disasters in the State.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

Shah moots 1 card for all utilities

Home Minister says 2021 census will be digital and could prepare a base for it

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Announcing that the 2021 census exercise would be carried out digitally, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday suggested one card for all utilities in future.

Speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony for construction of a new building of the Registrar General of India (RGI) that conducts census, he said the digital census had the potential to bring all cards such as Aadhaar, passport, bank account, and driving licence on one platform. "Why is it so difficult to link and update birth and death registration with census data," he wondered.

No formal proposal

He said there was no formal proposal for the common utility card, but digital census had the potential of preparing the base for it.

The decennial census ex-



Why can't we have just one card for all utilities like Aadhaar, passport, bank account, driving licence, voter card. There should be a system that all data should be put together in a single card... That is why digital census is very important

AMIT SHAH, Union Home Minister

ercise will be undertaken in 2021 and, for the first time, move from paper to digital format. Mr. Shah said ₹12,000 crore would be spent on preparation of the National Population Register (NPR) and census.

Mr. Shah said the NPR would be updated on a priority basis as it helps in tracking criminal activities, and better planning and execution of government schemes. The NPR links biometric and demographic details of any ordinary resident, thus making it a comprehensive data-

base of residents.

The exercise was conducted earlier in two phases in 2010 and 2015. The next round of recording biometric and family tree details of Indian citizens will be conducted in September 2020, a government notification issued earlier said.

The NPR exercise is different from the census and is not linked to the National Register of Citizens (NRC). For the purpose of the NPR, an ordinary resident is defined as a person who has resided in a local area for the past six

months or more or a person who intends to reside in that area for the next six months or more.

Mr. Shah said the Census 2021 data would be the base for the country's future planning, development initiatives and welfare schemes, and people's wholehearted participation would be the key to the success of the exercise.

"India's 130 crore population should be informed about its benefits. The utilisation of census data is multi-dimensional, and will be a significant contribution in the nation's progress," he said.

He said on the basis of the 2011 Census, the Modi government had planned 22 welfare schemes related to electricity, gas connections, roads, houses for the poor, toilets, bank accounts, and opening of bank branches.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

Rawat hints at stronger action as Pak. revives Balakot camp

500 people waiting to infiltrate, says Chief of Army Staff

DENNIS S. JESUDASAN  
CHENNAI

Chief of Army Staff General Bipin Rawat on Monday indicated that India's response to the revival of the terrorist camp at Balakot in Pakistan could go beyond air strikes.

Asked if there could be a repeat of the air strike, he said: "Why must we expect a repeat of a similar thing? Earlier we did something, then we did Balakot; why not keep the other side guessing as to what we will do? Why tell them what we are going to do? Why say repeat? Why not something beyond that?"

Interacting with reporters at the Officers Training Academy here, Gen. Rawat said, the terrorist camp in Pakistan that had been destroyed by the Indian Air Force earlier this year, has been reactivated very recently and at



Gen. Bipin Rawat at the Officers Training Academy in Chennai on Monday. ■ R. RAGU

least 500 persons were waiting to sneak into India.

However, adequate measures were in place to prevent their entry, he asserted.

To a query on the number of infiltrators, he said: "These numbers keep fluctuating. But, I would say, yes, there are at least 500 people waiting to infiltrate. That is the minimum number I would say. But, these

Trump renews offer to mediate

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday hoped India and Pakistan would resolve their differences over Kashmir. At a meeting with Imran Khan, he reiterated his willingness to mediate between the two nations. ► PAGE 14

Renewable energy target to be more than doubled

Capacity to be raised to 450 GW: Modi

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN  
NEW YORK CITY

India's renewable energy target will be increased to 450 GW, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at the United Nations Climate Action Summit here on Monday.

"India today has come not just to talk about the seriousness of this issue, but to present a practical approach and a road map. We believe an ounce of practice is worth more than a tonne of preaching," he said.

Comprehensive plan

Speaking in Hindi, Mr. Modi reiterated India's commitment to the creation of 175 GW renewable energy capacity by 2022 under the Paris Climate Agreement. "What is needed today is a comprehensive approach which covers education, values and everything from lifestyle to developmental philosophy... What we need is a global people's movement to bring about behavioural change."

India would spend approximately \$50 billion "in the next few years" on the Jal Jeevan Mission to conserve water, harvest rainwa-

'Healthy life a basic right'



India's experience and capabilities in providing affordable healthcare is

available for use to all developing countries, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the first-ever high-level meeting on Universal Health Coverage in New York on Monday. Mr. Modi underscored that a healthy life is the right of every person. ► PAGE 12

ter and develop water resources, he added.

Mr. Modi also said India planned to "considerably increase the proportion of the biofuel blend in petrol and diesel."

He said India had plans to make the transport sector green through the use of electrical vehicles.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 12

MODI ACTIVELY CAMPAIGNED FOR TRUMP: CONGRESS ► PAGE 13  
TEXAN OUTREACH ► EDITORIAL

A tall order



A priest climbs down a ladder after lighting a lamp in a temple built on a 35-foot-high bamboo pole in floodwaters on the banks of the river Ganga in Allahabad on Monday. ■ AFP

Mob beats up man for 'cow smuggling' in Alwar

Victim suffered multiple fractures

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
JAIPUR

A mob of cow vigilantes beat up a man alleging that he was smuggling half-a-dozen cows to Haryana in Rajasthan's Alwar district in the early hours of Monday. Police rescued the victim from the crowd and admitted him with multiple fractures at the government hospital in Shahjahanpur.

The man, identified as Munfed Khan, accompanied by a few other persons, was allegedly taking the cows in a pick-up van, which broke a police barricade near Khusha Ki Dhani village. Police had put up the barricades on Sunday night after getting a tip-off about smuggling of cows.

Criminal record

The villagers stopped the van and rescued the cows, while the people travelling in the vehicle tried to escape. The mob caught one of them, Munfed Khan, and thrashed him, while at least two others fled from the spot.

Bhivadi Superintendent of Police Amandeep Singh Kapoor said Munfed Khan

This episode was meant to create a public spectacle and instil fear among the Muslim dairy farmers

KAVITA SRIVASTAVA  
PUCL-Rajasthan president

had a criminal record of smuggling cows in the past. He said first information reports had been registered against both the sides and the animals were sent to a local cow shelter.

The People's Union for Civil Liberties said this was a case of "attempted mob lynching", in which the victim picked up by the cow vigilantes was criminalised and beaten up. "This episode was meant to create a public spectacle and instil fear among the Muslim dairy farmers." PUCL-Rajasthan president Kavita Srivastava said.

Ms. Srivastava said the attacks on those ferrying cows had not stopped in the Congress regime in the State and this was the second such case after a similar instance of vigilantism in Alwar district's Kishangarh Bas on December 22, 2018.

Sign language dictionary gets 4,000 new words

Category of agriculture being considered for first time, says officials

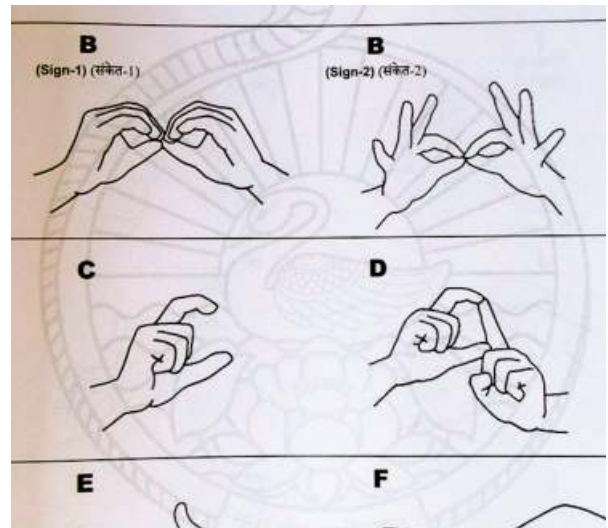
DAMINI NATH  
NEW DELHI

Around new 4,000 words are likely to be added to the Indian sign language dictionary in 2020, including words about agriculture for the first time, according to officials of the Union Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry's Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), which is carrying out the project.

The work on adding more words to the dictionary, the first edition of which was launched in March 2018, followed by the second edition with 6,000 words in February 2019, started in April this year, an ISLRTC official said.

Work under way

Speaking on the occasion of the International Sign Language Day on Monday,



Reaching out: A page from the English-Hindi Sign Language dictionary.

Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thaaawarchand Gehlot said he hoped the addition of 4,000 words to the sign language dictionary would be done by 2020.

Right now, the work of

identifying signs for words across categories, including administration, medical, legal, education and agriculture, a first, with the help of the hearing impaired community was on, the official said.

After that, a list of words would be presented before stakeholders from across the country at a national workshop to be held in January of February 2020, the official said.

First edition

The first edition of the dictionary, which was released in DVD form, had signs of everyday use along with the corresponding words in English and Hindi. Apart from that, specialised terms used in legal, academic, medical and technical fields were also included.

The second edition had 6,000 words of academic, legal, medical, technical and everyday terms categories.

Meanwhile, the Minister handed out awards for a competition held for children with hearing impairment studying in the National Capital Region.

Allahabad High Court refuses stay on law student's arrest

SIT had booked her in Chinmayanand extortion case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ALLAHABAD/LUCKNOW

The Allahabad High Court on Monday refused to grant relief to the Shahjahanpur law student seeking a stay on her possible arrest in an extortion case filed by BJP leader Swami Chinmayanand, who is accused of raping her.

Mr. Chinmayanand, who was arrested on Friday, was shifted on Monday from a Shahjahanpur jail to a Lucknow hospital, where he was tested for cardiac problems.

The Special Investigation Team probing the case submitted a report in a sealed cover before a two-judge Bench.

Expressing satisfaction with the probe so far, the Bench of Justices Manoj Mishra and Manju Rani Chauhan fixed October 22 for the probe team to submit the next report. The woman was



Swami Chinmayanand. ■ FILE PHOTO

also present in the courtroom. The postgraduate law student had sought a stay on her arrest after the SIT booked her and arrested three men for allegedly trying to extort money from Mr. Chinmayanand.

Fresh petition

"If the victim wants any relief in this regard, she may file a fresh petition before an appropriate Bench," the High Court said. "This Bench was nominated to the

case only for monitoring the investigation in this matter and has no jurisdiction to pass order on stay of arrest."

Chinmayanand in ICU

Mr. Chinmayanand has been admitted to the intensive care unit of the Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute in Lucknow, where cardiologists examined him, Jail Superintendent Rakesh Kumar said.

Hospital Chief Medical Superintendent Amit Agarwal said angiography was done and no significant blockage was found, adding that angioplasty was not required.

The 72-year-old will be stabilised with medicines in four or five days and his discharge will be planned in due course of time, the doctor said. Mr. Chinmayanand was arrested last Friday and sent to 14 days' judicial custody.

I-T Dept. notice to wife of Ashok Lavasa

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Income Tax Department on Monday issued a notice to Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa's wife seeking clarifications regarding discrepancies in her income tax returns.

The notice sent to Novel Singhal had to do with her income earned as an independent director on a number of companies. Income Tax officials, however, said that it was a routine matter.

The official did not state the quantum of money involved. Ms. Singhal is a former banker, having taken early retirement from the SBI in 2005.

Mr. Lavasa was recently in the news for dissenting against the Election Commission's decisions during the Lok Sabha election where PM Narendra Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah were given clean chits for alleged violations of the model code of conduct.



IN BRIEF

Man sells mortgaged land, court rejects bail plea

NEW DELHI  
A court here has dismissed the bail plea of a man and his mother for allegedly cheating a private bank by selling a mortgaged property for ₹1 crore despite a stay by the Delhi High Court. Additional Sessions Judge Gurdeep Singh Saini rejected the bail application of Nishant Arora and his mother for selling a flat for over ₹1 crore to the complainant, Nishan Nitti, though the High Court had stayed the operation in 2015. According to the prosecution, Mr. Arora had taken a loan of ₹1.6 crore from a private bank in 2012.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	83	Gurugram	27
Ghaziabad	-	Faridabad	49
Greater Noida	58	Noida	100
Good 0-50 Satisfactory 51-100 Moderate 101-200			
Poor 201-300 Very poor 301-400 Severe >401			
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS)   SOURCE: CPCB			

Malnourished children to get free treatment

GHAZIABAD  
The Ghaziabad district administration has launched a drive to give free treatment to malnourished children in 15 private hospitals here and also provide them nutritious food supplements and medicines free of cost. A health check-up camp was organised by the administration at a private hospital of Kaushambi where about 100 children were examined. In his inaugural address, District Magistrate Ajay Shanker Pandey said that 2,425 children, who were suffering from poor nutrition, have been identified.

DELHI TODAY

**Exhibition:** "Transiting Space", an exhibition of paintings in mix media and canvases by Shivan Garg at Triveni Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "Art N Art", a group exhibition of painting, sculpture and photography, art and craft, organised by Nav Shri Art & Culture Organisation at Artizen Art Gallery, Peary Lal Bhawan, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "Satrang", an annual group art exhibition curated by Anubhav Nath at Ojas Art Gallery, 1AQ, Qutab Minar Roundabout, Mehrauli Road, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "Magic of Realism", a solo painting exhibition by Shuven Sarkar at Convention Centre Foyer, IHC, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "Tryst With Colour IV", a group paintings show at Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@thehindu.co.in)

# Kurukshetra dancer's leg amputated due to 'negligence'

Case registered after Delhi Medical Council finds lack of diligence on doctor's part

HEMANI BHANDARI  
NEW DELHI

In an alleged case of medical negligence, a 42-year-old dancer, beautician and model from Kurukshetra had to get her leg amputated after two wrongly performed surgeries by a doctor at a city hospital.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Eish Singhal said that a case under Section 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered at Chanakypuri police station on Sunday and investigation is under way.

The victim, identified as Manpreet Kaur alias Sonia and resident of Kurukshetra's Sector 2, alleged that in 2016, she got two surgeries done by a doctor at a private hospital here after which her right leg got infected to an extent that it had to be amputated in December.

Met with an accident

The victim then approached the police and submitted her complaint. The complaint was then forwarded to the Delhi Medical Council which concluded medical negligence on the doctor's part. An FIR was registered.

In the FIR, Ms. Kaur stated



Manpreet Kaur before and after the failed surgeries.

\*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SPECIAL

that she had met with an accident about seven-eight years ago and a metal plate was put in her knee because of which she could not bend her knee.

"In October, I met orthopaedician K.K. Mishra at Primus Hospital and he assured me that he would fix my knee. A surgery was conducted and I was discharged in three days. My knee got swollen, I developed infection and there was no sensation in my leg. I continued to visit the hospital for follow-ups and shared the problem with him but he continued to



Manpreet Kaur before and after the failed surgeries.

\*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SPECIAL

assure that it will get better," the document stated. The doctor allegedly advised her to undergo another surgery after a month in November to which she agreed.

After the surgery, the doctor allegedly told her relative that her knee is damaged and she will not be able to bend it for the rest of her life. He also allegedly asked them to pay ₹5 lakh for further treatment.

Plastic surgery

Rakesh Kumar, Ms. Kaur's cousin, told *The Hindu* that they could not arrange the money for further treatment and returned to Kurukshetra. They consulted another

doctor there and the dancer underwent a plastic surgery at a private hospital. The doctor allegedly told her that three nerves in her leg were damaged during the first surgery. "The doctor [K.K. Mishra] never told us about the damaged nerve," Mr. Kumar said.

Subsequently, at a hospital in Kurukshetra, Ms. Kaur was told that her leg had to be amputated as the infection might spread to her entire body which would be fatal.

The DMC, in their order dated August 21, 2019, observed "Dr. K.K. Mishra did not exercise due diligence in timely detecting the post-surgery infection which might have mitigated the complainant's condition, in spite of the complainant being in regular follow-up with him; the interest of justice will be served if he is suspended for seven days from the State Medical Register of the Delhi Medical Council".

Mr. Kumar said that Ms. Kaur's financial condition has deteriorated over the last two years as the beauty parlour and dance academy which she used to run have come to a standstill. "We just want justice for her. She has been wronged," the cousin said.

## 2 departmental stores selling beer beyond permissible limit sealed

Rules permit sale of only 15% beer and wine at stores

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Excise Department, headed by Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, sealed

at least two departmental shops selling beer and wine in the city. Large-scale raids were carried out in Karol Bagh, Janakpuri, Azadpur, Jahangirpuri, Dwarka, Kailash Colony and Govindpuri.

The Minister visited a departmental store at Keekarwala Chowk where among items being sold, almost 90% of them were beer and wine. Only 15% beer and wine can be sold at a depart-

mental store as per the rules. The Minister directed the officials to seal the shop immediately.

Mr. Sisodia said: "According to law, a departmental store with a particular licence can hold 15% of beer & wine, but it has to have 85% of other inventory. These two 'departmental stores' were defaulting, apart from a few soft drinks and snacks, 80-90% of the stock consisted of wine/beer. This is completely in violation of the law. They were running wine and beer shops in the name of departmental

## Claims tribunal grants ₹23.92 lakh compensation to amputee

The victim's leg was crushed in a road accident in 2015

NIRNIMESH KUMAR  
NEW DELHI

A Motor Accident Claims Tribunal has awarded a compensation of ₹23.92 lakh to the driver of a vehicle whose right leg had to be amputated after being crushed in a road accident in 2015.

A commercial vehicle had hit the driver from behind when he along with another driver was trying to fix a broken down vehicle. The driver's leg had got crushed between the two vehicles under the impact of the offending vehicle hit.

The injured driver had demanded a compensation of ₹30 lakh but the presiding officer of the tribunal Amit Bansal fixed it at 23.92 lakh.

The driver and the owner of the offending vehicle opposed the claim petition, submitting that the accident had taken place due to the negligence on the part of the petitioner.

The two vehicles were parked in the middle of the road, and due to their sudden stoppage, the offending vehicle's driver did not get enough time to stop despite applying brakes.

Monthly income

However, the tribunal later decide the matter ex parte as the driver and the owner of the offending vehicle preferred not to defend themselves.

As the petitioner could

not prove his monthly income, the tribunal decided his compensation amount by fixing his income at ₹10,478 per month of a skilled worker in Delhi at the time of the accident.

The tribunal added another ₹4,191, 40% of his fixed income, to his monthly earning as he was below 40 years of age at the time of the mishap. So, his total monthly income was fixed at 14,669.

Awarding the compensation, Mr. Bansal said that the injured was also entitled to interest at the rate of 9% per annum from the date of filing of the petition till realisation of the compensation amount.

## Jewar airport: 47 protesting farmers held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NOIDA

Forty-seven farmers were arrested on Monday while protesting in Jewar demanding a hike in compensation for the land acquired for an airport, officials said.

When the farmers proceeded to lay siege to the Jewar toll plaza around noon, they were arrested as the demonstration could have disrupted the movement of traffic, the officials said. The arrest comes at a time

when the acquisition of land is under way for the Greenfield International Airport in Gautam Buddh Nagar's Jewar tehsil.

The district administration has acquired more than three-quarters of the land required for the first phase of the airport. "The farmers under the banner of the Jewar Airport Kisan Sangharsh Samiti have been on a sit-in for the past one year. We have demanded four times the circle rate in compensa-

tion and one government job to each family affected by the project," Rakesh Singh, a protesting farmer said.

He said the Sangharsh Samiti had been protesting for it since September 2018 at Dayanatpur village and around 500 farmers on Monday participated in the demonstration.

District police chief Vaibhav Krishna said the farmers were held under the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) Section 151.

## How could Uphaar convict be treated as VVIP, asks HC

He was issued short-validity passport

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has questioned the issuance of F-token to Sushil Ansal, convicted in the 1997 Uphaar cinema fire incident that claimed 59 lives, for getting a short-validity passport, saying how could a convict be treated as a VVIP.

Justice Najmi Waziri made this observation as F-tokens are only issued to very very important persons (VVIP) for issuance of a passport.

"It is argued that on July 22, 2018, a short-validity passport was issued on the basis of an F-token issued to the applicant. The F-token is issued only for VVIP persons. It is a matter of wonder as to how a convict in a multiple culpable homicide case could still be treated or classified as a VVIP to avail priority benefits before the Regional Passport Officer, New Delhi.

Inquiry report

"At whose behest or recommendation, if any, was the said F-token issued to him,

remains unanswered," the court said after going through an inquiry report filed by the Ministry for External Affairs (MEA) on how Ansal's application in May last year for a passport was moved from pre-verification to post-verification mode.

The court also termed as "inexplicable" how the pre-verification status was changed to post-verification and the 'stop' put on his passport application was also cleared, despite two adverse reports sent by Delhi Police to the Regional Passport Office.

When there was such a clear communication on record from the end of the police, "there was no question of the verification being changed from pre-verification to post-verification because the passport office had full knowledge of the facts of the case", the court said.

Taking note of the submission by the government lawyer, the court listed the matter for further hearing on September 26.

### SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one person (depicted in the photo) namely **Vishal Bhardwaj**, S/o Lt. Sh. Ratan Bhardwaj, R/o H. No. 10/52, Khichripur, Delhi, has been missing since 05.09.2019. In this regard a D.D. No. 07-A, Dated 10.09.2019 has been lodged at Police Station - Kalyanpuri, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

**Age:** 24 years, **Complexion:** Sallow, **Height:** 5'7", **Face:** Long, **Clothing:** Wearing blue colour Shirt and blue colour Pant.

Any person is having any information/Clue about this missing person, may inform undersigned.

SHO  
P.S. Kalyanpuri, Delhi  
DP/7030/ED/19 Ph.: 011-22772251, 22772287



### SCHOOL BUZZ

A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

### CBSE TEACHERS AWARD

Mr. V. K. Chopra, Principal of DAV Public School, Sahibabad, was felicitated with the CBSE Teachers Award 2018-19 on Teachers' Day 2019 by the Ministry for Human Resource & Development, Govt. of India, Shri. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank.' As an educator, Mr. V. K. Chopra has made immense efforts to nurture his students into sensitive human beings. The staff, parents and students of the school feel proud of this achievement and recognition.



### ANNUAL CONFERENCE



The Annual Conference of FPS was conducted on Converging, Diverging and Transcending Boundaries through Innovation and Technology. The session commenced with a welcome address by Ms. Anupma Bhardwaj, Chairperson, FPS. The Annual FPS report was read by Ms. Archana Narain, Dr. Shakuntla S Jaiman, Treasurer. Keynote speakers, Prof. Ved Prakash, former Chairman, UGC, Ms. Vinnice Jauhari, Director, Microsoft Education, Swami Bodhmayananda ji, Director, Vivekananda Institute of Human Excellence, Mulyaamrit, Hyderabad and Ms. Gita Chandran, Padmashri & Founder President, Natya Vriksha, shared their insights regarding the topic on the occasion.

### INVESTITURE CEREMONY



DTEA Senior Secondary School, Pusa Road, conducted their Investiture Ceremony on 6th September. The Secretary of DTEA Schools, Shri. R. Raju, awarded the badges to the newly appointed members of the student council. The Governing Body member of the school Shri. Paramasivam and the former GB member Shri. Perumal were also present for the occasion.

**For Subscription related queries, please contact Kapil Nagar:**  
**Handphone: +91 98100 89457/Email: kapil.nagar@thehindu.co.in**

### DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI F-17, KARKARDOOMA, DELHI - 110032 Ph. No. : 011-22309220, Email : dirdhs@nic.in

#### CORRIGENDUM

With reference to Public Notice regarding classification of laboratories and qualification for signing of laboratory reports issued by Directorate General of Health Services, Government of NCT of Delhi in newspapers on 12.12.2018, a corrigendum is being issued in this regard which reads as below:

All medical diagnostic laboratories situated in NCT of Delhi are to be classified into three categories, namely, Basic Composite; Medium and Advanced and the owners of all pathological laboratories situated in NCT of Delhi are directed to display a signage at a conspicuous place in their premises regarding the category of their pathological laboratory.

Further, in pursuance to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide Order dated 12.12.2017 in SLA (C) No. 28529/2010 in the matter of North Gujarat Unit of Association of Self Employed Owners (Paramedical) of Private Pathology Laboratories of Gujarat versus North Gujarat Pathologists Association & Ors. regarding the signing of Laboratory reports, the following directions are being issued:

- The reports of the Advanced category and Medium category laboratories are to be signed either by doctors registered with Delhi Medical Council having Post-Graduate qualification in Pathology / Bio-chemistry / Microbiology / Laboratory Medicine or having MBBS with Ph.D qualification in Pathology / Bio-chemistry / Microbiology / Laboratory Medicine.
- The reports of Basic Composite laboratory are to be signed by doctors registered with Delhi Medical Council having minimum MBBS Degree.

The general public is hereby informed that the list of laboratories surveyed / mapped by this Directorate can be viewed on Delhi Government Website **www.health.delhigovt.nic.in** and in case they find that the reports provided by a Pathological Laboratory situated in NCT of Delhi is not signed in accordance to aforementioned directions, they may complaint either to Secretary, Delhi Medical Council, 308A, 3rd Floor, Administrative Block, Maulana Azad Medical College, BSZ Marg, New Delhi - 110002 (**delhimedicalcouncil@gmail.com**) or Director General of Health Services, F-17, Karkardooma, Delhi - 110032 (**dirdhs@nic.in**).

**Sd/-**  
**Director General Health Services**  
**Government of NCT of Delhi**

**DIP/Shabdarth/0712/19-20**

### कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, धनबाद

#### शुद्धि पत्र

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि दैनिक समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं०—RCD/DHANBAD/1475/2019-20 (I<sup>st</sup> Call) का जिसका पी०आर० नं० 217412(Road) 19—20—D में योजना का नाम "योजना मद अन्तर्गत मुईफोर मोड़ धनबाद से बिनोद बिहारी चौक बलियापुर पथ के कि०मी० 0.00 से 13.20 कि०मी० तक मजबूतीकरण कार्य (वर्ष 2019—20)" को संशोधित करते हुए "योजना मद अन्तर्गत मुईफोर मोड़ धनबाद से बिनोद बिहारी चौक बलियापुर पथ के कि०मी० 0.00 से 13.20 कि०मी० तक (I.R.Q.P) मजबूतीकरण कार्य (वर्ष 2019—20)" पड़ा जाए। विशेष जानकारी हेतु पथ प्रमण्डल, धनबाद से सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता  
PR 217649 Road (19-20)\_D पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, धनबाद



Government to sell onions at ₹24 per kg

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said the government was procuring onions for sale at cheaper prices through fair shops and mobile vans.

He said this will offer relief to consumers troubled by the soaring price of onions. “The government is buying onions and the sale is expected to begin in 10 days. The price of onion will be ₹24 per kg,” he said.

An official said onions are sold here at ₹60-70 per kg in the retail market. On its part, BJP State chief Manoj Tiwari alleged that the government has failed to curb hoarding of onions leading to their spiraling prices. He said the price had increased by “200% to 300%” in the last 10 days. “The government is responsible for the black marketing...it should hold an inquiry and apprise the people about the reason of rising prices,” he demanded.

CM announces installation of over two lakh LED street lights

Lights to be powered by domestic connections; cost to be deducted from owners' bill

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday announced the implementation of the *Mukhyamantri Street Light Scheme*, which seeks to initiate the installation of over two lakh LED lights across the city.

**From November 1**

The scheme is the largest-scale project of its kind in the world which seeks to install 2.10 lakh 20 to 40 watt LED lights, he said, adding that it will be implemented from November 1 onwards with tendering procedure related to it expected to be completed over the next month.

“We will not leave a single dark spot in Delhi...The government is committed to ensuring women's safety. We are already implementing the CCTV scheme. The project is estimated at ₹100 crore and annual maintenance cost is



ARVIND KEJRIWAL, Chief Minister

₹10 crore. This is the biggest step to be taken for women security,” Mr. Kejriwal said.

He added that citizens can submit their requests for streetlights to their local MLAs following which the permission of the building owners will be taken.

“The street lights will be installed after the location of the survey is approved by the power company. The location for the street lights will be selected before November,” Mr. Kejriwal added.

According to him, the

lights installed under the scheme will be automatic and have a sensor allowing them to turn on when it is dark and turn off at sunrise. He added that such lights will be powered by electricity made available from the house of the owner similar to the CCTVs proposed to be installed by the government.

Since these street lights will get electricity from the building owner's household connection, the amount added to consumers' respective power bills for the operation

for these lights will be deducted, Mr. Kejriwal said, adding that it will be an automatic arrangement.

“In a day or two, we will decide how much electricity will be needed to run one light,” he said.

**‘Serious problems’**

The government decided to go ahead with the scheme since there were “serious problems” in getting permission from civic bodies to place electricity poles to power such lights, he said.

“The government wanted to instal street lights all over Delhi but in unauthorised colonies and slums, there was a lack of space. The civic bodies were refusing to give NOCs to set up these streetlights. Only the permission of the MLA and the building owner is required. People can get it installed in their house, shop, street, anywhere,” he added.

Public fights by BJP cadres pushes RSS to take action

‘Sangh asks State unit to curb dynastic politics in its ranks’

JATIN ANAND  
SIDHARTH RAVI  
NEW DELHI

Following three recent incidents of alleged fights among BJP members, the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) is set to take action against those involved, sources claimed.

The Sangh has taken cognisance of BJP's policy of replacing incumbent office-bearers and candidates for various elections in the Capital with “new faces” and directed the State unit of the party to curb *parivarwaad* (dynastic politics) in its ranks, sources added.

“There have been three recent incidents which the RSS has taken cognisance of and in light of which has directed the party to keep dynasticism in check for the sake of the party's reputation. All three incidents involved members – either current public representatives or former – coming to blows in public, which has

tarnished the image of the BJP. The Sangh has directed the party to take exemplary action against all those involved in such incidents,” a party leader said.

This action was more than likely to be the termination of the primary membership of such cadre to send out a message to the effect that “intra-family rows or politics had no place in the organisation that is the BJP.” At an event on unauthorised colonies in north Delhi's Kirari on Sunday evening, BJP members, including two councillors of the North body, got into an altercation.

Anil Jha, ex-MLA and BJP member wanted to address the gathering but an opposing faction was against it, said area councillor Poonam Parashar Jha, wife of Mr. Jha. One of the councillors allegedly involved in the altercation, she added.

While Ms. Jha denied involvement in the incident,

she said this was an internal party matter and was being played up by vested interests. However, sources close to Sonam Chowdhary, the other councillor involved, said Ms. Jha, president of the BJP Delhi women's wing, instigated the fight.

Similarly, at another party event which was part of its outreach programme in Gokalpuri's unauthorised colonies on Sunday evening, two members from the district-level leadership came to blows.

On September 19, the party's Mehrauli district president Azad Singh was caught assaulting his estranged wife and former south Delhi Mayor Sarita Chaudhary at the party's headquarters.

“The senior State leadership will delve into each of these incidents to fix responsibility. Everyone's role will be examined,” said Pratyush Kanth, Delhi BJP in-charge of media, social media & IT cell.

Garbage binge



A woman dumps plastic waste on a cow standing near J.J. Colony ■PRASHANT SONI

Job scam unearthed with the arrest of six men in Noida

They looted 1,000 people to the tune of ₹2 cr. in 8 months

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Six men were arrested for allegedly duping over 1,000 persons to the tune of ₹2 crore for the past eight months on the pretext of getting them corporate jobs, the police said on Monday.

The accused – Kunal Singh (35), Gaurav Gupta (26), Kalpendra Singh Rajput (42), Shashank Shekhar (29), Shubham (23) and Vishal Tanwar (23) – were nabbed following a raid at their office in Noida's Sector-8.

The men used to purchase resumes from a prominent job portal by impersonating themselves as employees of a placement service company, the police said. The crime came to fore when an advocate complained that she received a call from a company – Placement Confirmation Service – assuring her that her resume would be forwarded to prominent companies.

“The woman, who had uploaded her resume on a free online job portal, received an email asking her to



The six accused men in police custody. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

pay service registration amount through a link. She did that,” said DCP (Cyber Crime Unit) Anshay Roy.

**Sought refundable fee**

After this, the accused asked her to submit scanned copies of documents on a separate link and demanded her to pay a refundable fee for verification of documents, the officer said, adding the victim paid a total of ₹34,000. When she realised that it was a scam, she asked them to return her money.

On the pretext of payment, the accused sent her a link and promo code. However, the moment victim fed that code, money got debited from her UPI linked Payment App accounts, the officer

added.

The police said the mastermind of the gang, Kunal, had opened his office – Trevion – in Noida. He worked there with 11 persons who were given separate items like computers, headphones and other accessories for calling job aspirants, sending emails, and etc, the DCP said.

The other accused men said Kunal used to receive the victim's money in multiple bank accounts opened in the name of bogus companies. The amount was then transferred in multiple accounts to hide the crime, the officer added.

Kunal was found to be involved in a similar fraud earlier and was arrested by Pune police in 2016, they added.

Tender floated for 50 lakh anti-pollution masks in city

Govt. may distribute these via schools

NIKHIL M BABU  
NEW DELHI

The government has floated a tender for procurement of around 50 lakh anti-pollution masks to be distributed to the public under a plan which was earlier announced by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, said officials.

“We have quoted around 50 lakh N95 masks in the tender and also quoted a price. We are yet to take a final call on how to distribute them but we are considering to get it done via schools,” a government official said.

The official added that both price and number of masks could vary at a later stage of the process.

*The Hindu* had earlier reported that the government had not consulted the Environment and Forest Departments before making the announcement.

**7-point plan**

Mr. Kejriwal has sought suggestions from the public on how to fight pollution during winter and received



Both price and number of masks could vary at a later stage of the process, said an official.

around 1,200 emails, based on which the seven-point ‘Parali Pradushan Action Plan’ was designed, read an official statement. On September 13, the Chief Minister had announced the distribution of anti-pollution masks and saplings to residents as part of a seven-point plan to fight air pollution. He had said that 50-60 lakh masks will be procured and distributed in October.

Officials of Forest Department said the survival rate of saplings would be less as plantation season is over.

Man bursts firecrackers to celebrate birth of child, booked

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A man was booked for allegedly bursting firecrackers to celebrate the birth of a child in his family in Chanakyapuri, the police said on Monday.

On Sunday afternoon, they claimed to have got a call at 10.15 p.m. regarding a man bursting firecrackers. A team nabbed Vivek Kumar Gupta from CPWD compound near Teen Murti Lane. “Vivek told the policemen that a girl child was born in his family and he was celebrating the moment,” said an officer. The police told Vivek that he has violated Supreme Court orders. “An FIR under IPC Section 188 [disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant] has been registered. No arrest has been made,” the officer added.

Man climbs hotel's terrace, rescued after 17 hours of negotiations

He posted videos from there, asking his followers to support him

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Sitting on the edge of a high-rise hotel's terrace in west Delhi on Sunday afternoon, a 31-year-old man threatened to jump off. Police officers and fire officials kept negotiating with him for over 17 hours before he was rescued.

The police said Sandeep alias Arman Malik checked into the hotel in Hari Nagar with his wife at 1.30 p.m. on Sunday.

After a fight, he went up to the terrace. Fire officials rescued him at 9 a.m. when Sandeep decided to come down as he wanted to use the washroom.

“The entire night, we persuaded him to come down. He was making videos on a mobile application, TikTok, and we kept meeting all his demands,” said an officer.

In his videos, the man narrated his ordeal and



View from the spot where the man was standing at the time of the incident. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

asked his followers to reach the hotel to support him. “We had a tough time decongesting the lane outside the hotel when his followers had gathered,” the officer added.

Sandeep threatened that he would jump off if the officers came near him. They gave him a hailer as per his demand. The officers also threw fruits and water bottles at him when he said he

was hungry.

The fire department said they received a call about the incident at 4 p.m. on Sunday after which three vehicles carrying ladders were rushed to the spot.

The fire brigade, police and a CAT ambulance were at the spot trying to convince him that he could be brought down to safety.

The couple hailing from Ahmedabad was married in the same hotel a year ago, an officer said, adding she was his second wife.

**Arrested after rescue**

Sandeep is an accused in a case lodged at Nihal Vihar police station. After the rescue, he was arrested in the previous case after questioning, the police added.

*Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivni, Society for Mental Health, Telephone: 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. -7.30 p.m.*

North Mayor suspends AAP councillors for 15 days

Ruckus over dengue issue in House brings meeting to a close; Cong. takes a jibe at AAP

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The North Delhi Municipal Corporation Mayor suspended all councillors of the Aam Admi Party for 15 days after a ruckus broke out at a house meeting on Monday over dengue issue in the Capital.

Leader of Opposition Surjith Kumar of AAP was dragged out of the meeting by marshals. He said the party

raised slogans in the house because their motion to discuss the issues of street vendors was not accepted. On the other hand, North body Mayor Avtar Singh said he decided to allow discussion on dengue.

It has been alleged that AAP councillors raised slogans, entered the well of the House and did not allow it to run. The meeting was ad-

journed three times before being brought to a close.

**Govt.'s advertisements**

Standing Committee Chairperson Jai Prakash attacked AAP saying the party did not want to talk about the disease as its efforts were not in line with the government's recent advertisement on dengue awareness.

“None of the councillors or

MLAs of AAP took part in information campaigns. They themselves don't know how an 80% reduction has taken place,” he said.

Members of the Congress also attacked AAP for disrupting the meeting.

The Mayor said a special meeting of the house to discuss the issue of dengue would be held in the next few days.

Pink tickets for women for free travel in buses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Pink tickets will be issued to women passengers under the government's scheme for free travel in DTC and cluster buses which was approved by the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) board on Monday, sources said.

The scheme has been approved till March 2020 and it will be rolled out on Bhai Dooj on October 29, they said.

The DTC board has approved free travel for women in its buses. It has also given the go-ahead to procure 300 electric buses,” the sources said.

Two motorbike-borne men snatch scribe's phone in CR Park; manhunt on

Victim got injured after she fell off from auto at that time

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A journalist was injured when two motorcycle-borne men snatched her mobile phone in south Delhi, the police said on Monday.

The incident took place on Sunday at 6 p.m. when Joymala Bagchi, an employee of a TV news agency, was heading towards home in an autorickshaw in Chittaranjan Park (CR), they said.

She alleged that two men came on a motorcycle and snatched her mobile phone when she fell from the three-wheeler.

The accused then sped off, the police said.

An Emergency Response Vehicle patrolling in the area reached the spot and took the injured woman to AIIMS Trauma Centre.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Atul Thakur said a first information report under Indian Penal Code Section 394 (voluntarily causing hurt in committing robbery) has been registered at CR Park police station.

**CCTV footage**

“We have formed a team to identify the snatchers. We are also looking for CCTV footage installed on the route taken by the accused,” Mr. Thakur added.

The doctors said Ms.

**Measures taken**

“We instal barricades and put pickets at locations, which are crime-prone. We keep a track on the activities of criminals who have recently come out on bail,” said a senior officer.

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party will launch a women outreach programme in early October, under which women party leaders will travel to different areas of the city and conduct meetings ahead of



IN BRIEF

Four drug traffickers arrested in Greater Noida

FOUR suspected drug traffickers were arrested in Greater Noida after nearly 2 kg cannabis was recovered from their possession, the police said on Monday. The police acted on a tip-off and arrested the accused from near Ace Platinum society around 12.45 a.m. “The accused have been identified as Anil, Sameer, Yash and Rahul. They are all all locals,” a police officer said. PTI

Over 200 students stage protest at ICIA

NEW DELHI Over 200 students of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India staged a protest outside its central Delhi office on Monday, claiming their answer sheets were not evaluated properly and demanded a recheck. The students alleged that evaluators had deducted marks for no reason. PTI

Centre nudges Delhi on fast-track special courts

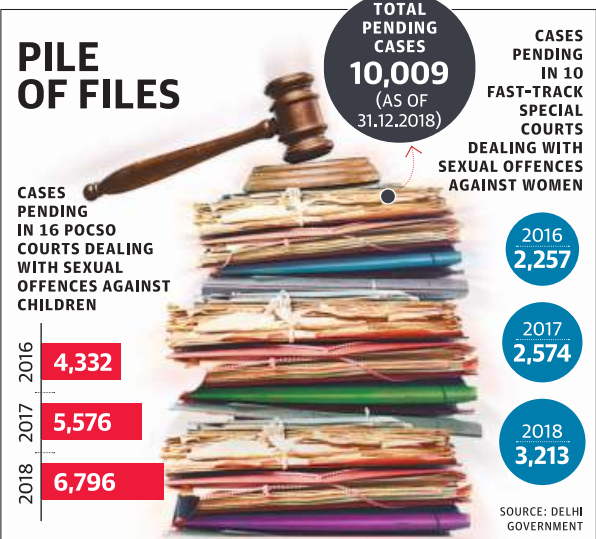
Proposal to set up 16 more courts for sexual assault cases held up as AAP govt. is yet to reply to letter

NIKHIL M BABU  
NEW DELHI

The Centre has written to the Delhi government for a “quick response” on a scheme to set up 16 more fast-track special courts to dispose of the over 10,000 cases of sexual assault against women and children, including rape, pending in special courts in the city.

The Delhi government, however, is yet to reply to the September 5 letter from the Union Ministry of Law and Justice, according to sources.

The Hindu had earlier this month reported that the Delhi government has not sent suggestions on a nine-month-old proposal from the Central government to set up 16 FTSCs. Delhi Law Minister Kailash



Gahlot had then said that they were taking suggestions from different departments.

These 16 courts are part of 1,023 FTSCs proposed to

be set up across the country by the Central government using the Nirbhaya Fund to speed up the disposal of such cases. The Centre came up with the plan fol-

lowing Supreme Court directions on the matter.

“For a timely and efficient implementation of the scheme... you are requested to convey your reply to us at the earliest. Your quick response will help us in processing the transfer of funds at an early date,” reads the September 5 letter accessed by The Hindu.

The letter also said that initially the scheme will operate for one year, and the total funds required for setting up and functioning of the 16 FTSCs for one year is ₹12 crore, of which ₹7.2 crore (60%) will be borne by the Central government. The Delhi government will have to arrange the rest of the money.

The issue of setting up 16 FTSCs was also raised in a meeting chaired by Lieute-

nant-Governor Anil Bajjal earlier this month, according to an official who attended it.

When the State government approached the Delhi HC on the matter earlier this year, the latter said the pendency of cases was increasing every year and stood at 10,009 cases, as of December 31, 2018.

It also said that the city needs 59 such special courts to dispose of the cases and to begin with, 16 FTSCs be set up in Delhi, followed by more in subsequent phases. There are 16 POSCO courts and 10 FTSCs dealing with sexual offences against children and women respectively at present.

Sources said that the September 5 request is pending with Mr. Gahlot’s office.

Green panel seeks report on illegal banquet halls

‘Halls running without building plans’

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has sought a report from the Delhi Pollution Control Committee on illegal banquets halls in west Delhi, while observing that there is an urgent need to regulate banquet halls in order to curb their adverse impact on environment and public health.

An NGT Bench said, “There is dire need of proper regulation of banquet halls to mitigate the adverse impact on environment and public health. Further steps are required for laying down guidelines and mechanism for assessing the adverse impact and also ensuring proper monitoring mechanisms.”

It was hearing a plea filed

by city resident Deepak Datta who sought remedial action against the operation of illegal banquet halls. The petitioner had claimed that the halls were running without requisite building plans and other approvals.

The NGT also took note of an action-taken report, which said that ₹80 lakh was recovered from 91 defaulting banquet halls in terms of inadequate parking, illegal groundwater extraction and operating without consent.

“There is no material to indicate how the compensation recovered meets the norms of ‘polluter pays’ principle,” the Bench said.

The tribunal directed DPCC Member Secretary to furnish an action-taken report by November 30.

2 held for selling cancer medicines meant for defence personnel

They received drugs at cheap rates from a gang, sold online

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Two brothers have been arrested for allegedly selling expensive cancer medicines meant for defence personnel to patients at cheap rates online, the police said on Monday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Jasmeet Singh said that the accused have been identified as Dhruv Nath Jha and Om Nath Jha. “On September 20, the police received an information about a gang involved in selling costly cancer medicines meant for sale at defence and ESI dispensaries in the open market. A trap was then laid near a petrol pump in Vikas Marg and the accused were arrested,” Mr. Singh said, adding that a bag full of medicines was reco-



The accused in police custody. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

vered from their possession.

The police said that five packets of costly medicines with stamps reading ‘sale in Defence and ESI only’ were recovered from the bag. The police also recovered seven packets of medicines from which similar stamps had been erased.

During interrogation, Dhruv revealed his brother Om’s involvement in the matter and at his instance, the latter was arrested from

their office in Laxmi Nagar. Large quantities of medicines and the chemical used for erasing the stamps was also recovered from the office, the police said.

The accused told the police that they had got the medicines at cheap rates from a gang operating from Gwalior, Mumbai, Ghaziabad and Noida and that they used to further supply the medicines to patients at cheap rates online.

Youth posts abusive comments about cousin on social media, held

He was angry over property dispute with relatives: police

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 21-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly posting vulgar and abusive comments along with photographs of his aunt’s daughter allegedly because he wanted to take revenge on the aunt for asking her share in the ancestral property.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South West) Deven- der Arya said that the accused has been identified as Vicky Chouhan, a resident of Jahangirpuri.

The police said that on September 8, they received a complaint from a woman who stated that someone has created a fake Facebook profile and had shared some pictures of her daughter along with obscene and vul-

gar comments. The person also shared the mobile number of her son who had been receiving calls from all over the country, she said. “The complainant also alleged that the vulgar comments posted on a social media platform led to her daughter’s engagement being called off,” Mr. Arya said.

Based on the complaint, a case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the IT Act was registered and an investigation was taken up.

The police sought details from Facebook about the mobile number or the email id which was used to create the profile. Subsequently, the police traced the number and reached Sant Ram, resident of Narela, who stat-

ed that he had created the profile in February but was not using it.

“He said that his friend Vicky had taken the password and login id saying that he did not have a Facebook account and wanted to use his. It was revealed that the said account was being operated from another device which belongs to Vicky Chouhan,” the officer said, adding that the accused was arrested from Jahangirpuri.

During interrogation, he told the police that his and his aunt’s family have been at loggerheads over a property issue. He said he knew about his cousin’s engagement and confessed to have posted her pictures and comments on purpose, the police added.

Action against policeman for leaking clip of encounter

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police on Monday said they have failed to trace criminals who managed to escape in their car after firing at police personnel outside Akshardham metro station in East Delhi, adding that a policeman has been sent to district lines for leaking the CCTV footage of the encounter.

A footage of the encounter has gone viral on social media where two policemen are seen running towards a white sedan, but the driver speeds away. Another armed policeman is also running towards the car in the clip.

“The suspects will be held soon,” said a police officer. The police had laid a trap. The white sedan was signalled to stop but the criminals managed to escape after firing at the police.

BBA student found dead in university room

Institute to observe 3-day mourning

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM

A final-year student of Bachelor of Business Administration died by suicide in Haryana’s Sonapat on Monday.

After the student, who hailed from Madhya Pradesh, did not pick up his parents’ calls, the parents informed officials of his university. They went to check on him to find him hanging in his room.

He was staying alone as his roommates had gone home over the weekend.

The police received a call from the university’s security in-charge around 1 p.m. following which policemen accompanied with a forensics team reached the spot. The police also said that the preliminary investigation suggested that the student was upset.

A statement issued by the university’s communi-

cation director said a three-day mourning would be observed on the campus.

“With extreme grief, we wish to announce that a third-year B.B.A (Honours) student died by suicide. His parents and the police have been duly informed. We are deeply shocked and saddened that a young life has ended in this tragic manner. Our deepest condolences are with his classmates, friends, teachers, parents. JGU is observing a three-day mourning on the campus. There will be no social events or entertainment on the campus during 23-25 September 2019,” said a statement issued by the communication director.

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health: 011-4076 9002 (Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. - 7.30 p.m.)

Heal the walls



Conservation work by the Archaeological Survey of India under way at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Monday. ■ PRASHANT SONI

BSES announces ‘Tatkal’ connections for festivals, weddings

Consumers can contact discom’s call centre, visit customer care centres or apply through BSES app

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

With the festive season around the corner, electricity discom BSES on Monday announced that it would be providing ‘tatkal’ temporary electricity connections for

pujas, diwali melas, Ramlila events and marriages.

Under the scheme, consumers will be able to get temporary connection on the same day of applying for it, after they complete requisite commercial formalities,

the BSES said. It added that normally it takes up to seven days for a consumer to get a temporary connection.

To apply for the connection, consumers can contact BSES call centre, visit its customer care centres or apply

through the BSES app and make the payment online.

“Our entire machinery is geared up to make ‘same day’ connections possible,” a BSES spokesperson said.

The discom also highlighted the parallel issue of in-

crease in power theft cases during the festive season, in a statement.

It said that its teams will be on high alert to catch such transgressions and will rely on analytic to catch power thieves.

South municipal corporation declares Tagore Garden market plastic-free

‘Mass awareness programmes made drive a success’

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on Monday declared Tagore Garden’s fruit and vegetable market “plastic-free”.

Chairman of the Standing Committee, Bhupendra Gupta, said that this was achieved through effective mass awareness programmes and with the support of market association and the shopkeepers. In a statement, the SDMC said that it will also identify 20 other markets – five in each of its four zones – to be declared as plastic-free by Oc-

tober 2.

In an effort to reduce dependence on polythene bags, initially awareness campaigns on the ill effects of plastic use were carried out involving customers and shopkeepers, said Rajiv Jain, senior official of the environment department. The reduced expense on purchase of plastic bags by vendors were also highlighted. The SDMC also entered a tie-up with an NGO to provide cloth bags, which were distributed to shopkeepers to give to customers who did not get their own bags, the official said.

Similar initiatives will also be taken at other markets, said Mr. Gupta. “Our first aim was to convince small shopkeepers to be the part of single-use plastic ban campaign,” he said, adding that it was a commonly held belief that it was difficult to make small fruits and vegetable vendors quit polythene bags.

The three municipal corporations of Delhi have been carrying out intensive drives to cease the use of single-use plastic following the Prime Minister’s pledge against it on Independence Day.

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**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD**  
E-Tender No.: JHS/TD/Tender/2019/23-24  
**E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE**  
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TD) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed “Open Tender” through On Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.  
E-Tender No. Description of work Approx Cost (₹) Earnest Money (₹)  
JHS/TD/Tender/2019/24 Interlocking of 2 LC gates in JHS-Gwl Section (409 & 369) (Provision of AT supply). ₹ 13,42,096/- ₹ 26,900/-  
JHS/TD/Tender/2019/23 Modification in 11 KV/33 KV Power Line crossing (Overhead transmission line) into under ground cable in connection with provision of third line between Bina-JHS Section of Jhansi Division. ₹ 58,62,281.20 ₹ 1,17,300/-  
Cost of Tender Form: For E-Tender No. JHS/TD/Tender/2019/24 ₹ 2100/- and JHS/TD/Tender/2019/23 ₹ 5250/-. Date of Closing Tender & Time: For both tender 22.10.2019 at 15.00 Hrs. Date of Completion Period from issue of acceptance letter: For both tender 04 Months. Tender on line can be submitted up to 15.00 hrs on 22.10.2019. Care full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.iirps.gov.in. 1365/19 (A)  
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**ANOOP SINGH (Advocate)**  
Ch.No. 276, Block-II, Delhi High Court, New Delhi

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BE IT KNOWN TO GENERAL PUBLIC AT LARGE THAT MY CLIENTS SH. ADITYA NATHS & SH. NIKHIL NATHS (FATHER, LATE SH. NARENDER NATH S/O LATE SH. BADRI NATH R/O 152, SHIVALIK APARTMENTS, ALAKNANDA, NEW DELHI PASSED AWAY ON 06/08/2019 LEAVING BEHIND A WILL DATED 03/04/2015 WHEREBY HE HAS BEQUEATHED SOME MOVEABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTY VIZ PROPERTY/COTTAGE NO. 11, NATINI KINGDOM VILL., BHUWANDHRA PO, BHAWALI NANITA, UTTARAHAND ADEASURING 160 SQ. YARDS, TWO LIC POLICIES BEARING NO. 116681008 & 117381172 AND SHARE IN PLOT AT BITTORIA NO.1, HALDOWANI IN FAVOR OF MY CLIENTS.

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Neha and 58 Ors.  
Versus  
...Complainant(s)  
Mis JNC Construction Pvt. Ltd. and 3 Ors.  
...Opp. Party(s)  
THE PURCHASERS/ALLOTEES OF THE RESIDENTIAL APARTMENTS/ FLATS IN "JNC 'THE PARK'" AT PLOT NO. GH-01 SECTOR-16C, GNIDA, DISTT. GAUTAM BUDH NAGAR, U.P. DEVELOPED BY MIS JNC CONSTRUCTION PVT. LTD. AND 3 ORS.

Whereas the above Complainants have, through Mr. VIKAS K. BHARTI, Advocate CH. NO. 207, 2ND FLOOR, LAWYER'S CHAMBER BLOCK, DISTRICT COURT, ROHINI, DELHI-1100085, Mobile. 9818000358, filed the captioned Consumer Complaint before the Hon'ble National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, New Delhi on behalf and/or for the benefit of all the consumers who have either booked or have been allotted residential apartments in the project namely "JNC 'THE PARK'" AT PLOT NO. GH-01, SECTOR-16C, GNIDA, DISTT. GAUTAM BUDH NAGAR, U.P. being developed by the Opposite Party named above, for redressal of their common grievances, and seeking the following reliefs:-

- Direct the Opposite Party to refund the amounts paid by the complainants and similarly situated persons in respect of their respective flats at projects JNC "THE PARK" situated at Plot NO.GH-01, Sector-16C, GNIDA, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. and
- Direct the opposite party to pay interest on the aforesaid amounts to respective complainants at the rate of 24% per annum from the date of deposit of each installment by respective complainant/ similarly situated consumers till the date of actual payment/ refund made by the opposite party; and
- Direct the Opposite Party to pay compensation on account of mental pain, agony, financial hardship suffered by the Complainants due to deficiency in services on the part of the Opposite Party at the rate of Rs.2,00,000/- (Rupees Two lakh) each to be paid to each complainant; and
- Direct the Opposite Party to pay Rs.1,00,000/- to each complainant towards the litigation cost and other miscellaneous expenses incurred by the complainants in realizing the aforesaid claim from the opposite party; and/or
- pass any such Order or further Orders, which this Hon'ble Commission may deem fit, just and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case in favour of the Complainants and against the Opposite Party.

And whereas the Hon'ble Commission vide its order dated 09.07.2019 is pleased to direct issue of notice of the institution of the above captioned complaint to all the consumers having same interest in the matter. Accordingly, all allottees of the above referred Project having the same grievance against the Opposite Party, may appear before the Commission in-person or through an Advocate/ Authorized Representative on 06.11.2019 at 10:30 a.m. They can inspect the file of the aforementioned complaint in the office of the Counsel for the Complainant (s) and apply for being impleaded as a party to the complaint.

They may also note that the decision of the Commission in the captioned complaint will be binding on all the consumers on whose behalf and/or for whose benefit the complaint is instituted.

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## South Korea keen on fresh start in Odisha

Envoy Shin Bong-kil meets Naveen

STAFF REPORTER  
BHUBANESWAR

Putting behind the bitter experience of steel major POSCO's unsuccessful bid to set up a plant in Odisha, South Korea has evinced keen interest in forging a new relationship in investment and business with the State.

South Korean Ambassador Shin Bong-kil, who led a business delegation, met Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and key functionaries of the industries department here on Monday.

"Recognising the State's potential in natural resources, POSCO had made \$12 billion investment commitment in 2005 to set up a steel plant in the State – it was not only the single largest overseas investment by a South Korean company, but also the single largest foreign investment ever made in

India," said Mr. Shin.

**'Fast-growing State'**  
Observing that POSCO's mega investment had faced many hurdles, he said: "I understand both sides have learnt from POSCO's experience and now need to make a fresh start. Odisha is a State growing very fast."

The delegation included representatives of Samsung, Hyundai, Kia and LG. Commenting on the slowdown in the automobile sector, the Ambassador said: "I think the phenomenon is temporary. Korean automakers, however, have been doing very well in India."

Addressing the delegation, Mr. Patnaik said, "We are in the process of promulgating a strategy document, Vision 2030, to ensure that 50% of primary metal produced in the State is value-added within the State."

## Assam's Independent MP forms party, army

'We will fight for equal rights for all'

RAHUL KARMAKAR  
GUWAHATI

Naba Sarania, an Independent Lok Sabha MP from Assam who is also a former extremist, has formed a political party as well as an "army without guns".

The Gana Surakhya Party (GSP), launched on Sunday, is expected to challenge the Bodoland People's Front, which has been running the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) since its creation in 2003. The BPF is a partner in the BJP-led alliance that rules the State.

The GSP's birth has assumed significance ahead of the election to the 40-seat BTC early next year across the districts of Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa and Udalguri, politically polarised between the Bodos and the non-Bodos.

The Bodos are the largest plains tribe in the north-eastern region,

but account for over 30% of the population in the Bodoland Territorial Areas District, administered by the BTC. Nineteen communities, including Muslims, form the non-Bodos.

Backed by the non-Bodos, Mr. Sarania has won in the Lok Sabha election from Kokrajhar twice since 2014. "We had to form the GSP because of the 'atrocities' on the non-Bodos in areas under the BTC and also because no party has cared for them," he said. "We hope to win the BTC election next year... We will fight for equal rights for all communities," he said.

On the BTAD army formed alongside his party, he said: "This is a non-violent army, without guns. It will have 5,000 volunteers in each BTAD district for protecting the lives, property and livelihood of the non-Bodos."

## Child of homeless couple stolen, sold

Boy reunited with family; six held

STAFF REPORTER  
BERHAMPUR

A childless couple's desire to adopt a male child without going through the legal process led to the kidnapping and sale of a two-year-old son of a homeless couple for ₹30,000 in Odisha's Berhampur.

Six persons were arrested on Monday in connection with the theft and sale of the child, who was rescued and handed over to his parents on Sunday.

The arrested persons included the childless couple, Brundaban Rana (52) and his wife Bai-jayanti; Prafulla Nayak and his wife Mamata, who prepared a fake adoption document

claiming they were the parents of the child; Santosh Rana, brother-in-law of Brundaban, and Siba Nayak.

The parents of the child are from the Gajapati district. They, along with their four-year-old daughter and son, had reached Berhampur a few weeks ago. Their son was kidnapped on September 19 night.

Police Inspector Sunit Soren said Brundaban, a bank attendant, had asked Santosh to arrange a child for adoption. Santosh contacted his friend Prafulla, who, with the help of Siba stole the son of the homeless couple.

On September 22, Siba was arrested and his racket was busted.

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**THE HINDU**





Crime Branch officers escort suspected terrorist Yusuf Abdul Wahab Sheikh in Ahmedabad, after his arrest on Monday. ■PTI

## Man wanted in 'jihad' case arrested after 16 years

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA AHMEDABAD**  
A man wanted in connection with the 2003 'jihad conspiracy' case in Gujarat was arrested on Monday morning when he arrived at the city airport from Saudi Arabia, officials said. Based on a specific tip-off, a joint team of the city Crime Branch and state Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) nabbed Yusuf Abdul Wahab Shaikh (50), a native of Juhapura area here, when he landed at the Ahmedabad airport, Assistant Commissioner of Police B V Gohil told reporters here.

Mr. Shaikh, who was allegedly involved in providing funds to Gujarat-based "jihadists" to avenge the attacks on Muslims in the state after the 2002 Godhra riots, was living in Saudi Arabia since 1999 and was involved in garment trade. His last visit to Gujarat was in 2002, Mr. Gohil said. He came to Ahmedabad on Monday to meet his second wife, who along with their children came back to the city from Saudi Arabia a few years back, he said.

# 'Withdrawal of Article 370 an instrument of change in J&K'

BJP has top-class leadership, opposition leaders either in jail or out on bail: Nadda

**SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE PUNE**  
The withdrawal of Article 370 was an instrument of change in Jammu and Kashmir, said national working president of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J.P. Nadda on Monday, adding that the move was possible only due to the political will of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the strategy of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Kicking off the party's campaign in Pune and western Maharashtra, Mr. Nadda hit out at the Congress and the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) saying they were parties centred round a particular political family or dynasty. "With the removal of Article 370, tribals residing in the Poonch-Rajouri area like the Gujjars, who had hitherto no reservation, can now participate in mainstream politics. The whole Ladakh area is tribal but there was no reserved seat for a Gujjar or a Bakarwal in the Vidhan Sabha or Lok Sabha. But this has now changed after we scrapped Article 370," he said, addressing a gathering of BJP workers.

**'Vital laws applicable'**  
He further said that 104 vital laws passed by Parliament – be it the SC/ST Act or the POCSO Act to prevent violence against children – that were not previously applicable to Jammu & Kashmir, would now be in force there. "Children of Gujjars and Bakarwals could not hitherto participate in any elections as there was no reserved seat. People who came from



BJP working president J.P. Nadda offering prayers at Dagduseth Halwai Ganapati in Pune on Monday. ■JIGNESH MISTRY

West Pakistan who settled in Jammu and Kashmir could not even participate in council elections, forget Assembly or general elections. But that will all change with the withdrawal of Article 370... Now, women can now buy real estate and transfer property to their children, even if they get married to a non-resident of Jammu and Kashmir," he said, adding that with the removal of Article 370, Dalits would now be able the right to join the judicial and administrative services.

Commenting on the upcoming Maharashtra Assembly polls, Mr. Nadda said that the BJP had top-class leadership and a programme for the future while the opposition's leaders were either languishing in jail or were out on bail.

"Apart from the Communist party, the BJP was the

only party which was truly democratic and in which a grassroots worker could reach to the top. In the BJP, a person from a humble background without powerful political or dynastic connections had the opportunity for self-advancement that most regional parties were run by families," he said.

"Today, the party workers, who are charged up to fight the polls have an inspirational leader in the form of Mr. Modi who has showed that India has established herself on the world stage. We have a hierarchy of leadership at every level, right from [Chief Minister] Devendra Fadnis in the State right down to capable leaders at the Zilla level. In contrast, the opposition's leaders were doing the rounds of the Enforcement Directorate or were putting up appea-

rances in front of the Central Bureau of Investigation and other probe agencies like the NIA," he said.

Stating that BJP had workers who were equally competent in taking the party's message to the masses at the ground level, he said the party membership had surged to a record 17 crore from 11 crore in a mere 54 days.

"In these 54 days, our workers not only participated in relief operations in the floods that hit western Maharashtra, but also in the Mahajanadesh Yatra," Mr. Nadda said, praising the workers' efforts towards building the BJP in western Maharashtra, once the erstwhile bastion of the NCP and the Congress.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Nadda also held closed-door meetings with party workers to chalk out strategy for the upcoming polls.

## Is an alliance with the NCP proving costly for Congress?

Dissatisfaction among local Congress leaders a worry

**SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE PUNE**

While the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress have tentatively agreed to contest 125 seats each in the forthcoming Maharashtra Assembly elections, relations between the two continue to be marred by severe distrust.

On Sunday, senior NCP leader Ajit Pawar's announcement that the NCP would be contesting on four of the eight Assembly seats in Pune city, leaving three for the Congress and one for an unnamed 'friendly party' has not gone down well with the leadership of the Pune City Congress.

Mr. Pawar had said that the NCP would contest the Parvati, Khadakwasla, Wadgaonsheri and Hadapsar Assembly seats while the Shivajinagar, Kasba Peth and Pune Cantonment seats would be contested by the Congress.

"Who is Ajit Pawar to announce this arrangement? We have received no official communication on this from the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee president. How can he [Ajit Pawar] do so unilaterally without consulting us?" said a senior Pune Congress leader, requesting anonymity.

Pune City Congress spokesperson, Ramesh Iyer, said that of the 'friendly parties', neither the Samajwadi Party nor Raju Shetti's Swabhiman Paksha had any toehold in urban Pune city nor had expressed any interest in contesting from here.

"We have strong candidates like Abu Bagul and Sachin Tawre, among others, for the Parvati Assembly seat

**We have strong candidates like Abu Bagul and Sachin Tawre, among others, for Parvati Assembly seat**

Ramesh Iyer  
**PUNE CITY CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON**

which should rightfully go to the Congress," Mr. Iyer said.

While alleging that the city Congress had been kept in the dark regarding this arrangement, other senior leaders have accused the NCP of always working towards the detriment of the Congress by using their party to fulfill its political aims.

More worrying is the dissatisfaction rife among local Congress leaders and long-standing party workers, who have hit out at the impotence of the MPCC and the senior Congress leadership in the State for not being able to stand up to Mr. Pawar during seat-sharing talks.

The most notable result of this has been the recent defection of senior Congressman from Indapur, Harshavardhan Patil, to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) – a move which is expected to deal a big blow to the Congress in western Maharashtra.

"Harshavardhan Patil, despite all the bad blood between the Pawar clan and himself, gave his all to campaign for Ms. Sule win on the all-important Baramati Lok Sabha constituency, ensuring a lead of 71,000 votes from the Indapur segment. Yet, the NCP never kept its part of the bargain and worse, the senior Congress leadership refused to stand

up for him," said another senior Pune-based Congress leader.

"It was due to Sharad Pawar's intransigence and personal rivalry that led to the defection of senior Congressman Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil to the BJP. This has resulted in the Congress to lose Ahmednagar. The same was repeated in Shirol (in Kolhapur) where Satyajit Deshmukh [son of veteran Congressman Shivajirao Deshmukh] was compelled to exit the party owing to the NCP's high-handedness. One wonders whether the alliance with them is worth it," he said.

According to a city-based political analyst, ever since Sharad Pawar split the Congress to form the NCP in 1999, the parent party's seat tally has been steadily declining in the State with Mr. Pawar calling the shots.

To make matters worse, both Ashok Chavan, the former MPCC chief, and Balasaheb Thorat, the current president, have proven incapable of firm negotiation with the NCP, causing the Congress in Maharashtra to drift like a rudderless ship.

"MPCC chief Balasaheb Thorat is busy campaigning to preserve his home turf of Sangamner, while other big leaders like Ashok Chavan and Prithviraj Chavan are tied down in their own constituencies in Nanded and Karad respectively. As a result, there is no strong voice at the top to lend expression to a coherent strategy and address problems plaguing the leadership in each district," said a former chief of the Pune Congress unit.

## Over 1,000 kg of plastic waste found at Goa beach

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA PANAJI**  
Over 1,000 kg of plastic waste has been found at a beach stretch near Panaji by a team of scientists and students of the Goa-based National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), an official said on Monday.

During a campaign as part of the International Coastal Cleanup Day 2019 last Saturday, the NIO team collected garbage from the Caranzalem beach for two-and-a-half hours and found the area littered with various plastic material.

"The waste collected from around one-km-long stretch of the beach included 1,078 kg of plastic, 486 kg of organic waste including paper and other trash, 720 glass bottles and 125 metal cans," a spokesperson of the NIO said.

The trash consisted of plastics used for food and other packagings, plastic caps, spoons, cups, glasses, straws, pens, bags, toys and decorative items, fishing net pieces and tarpaulin sheets, he said.



Plastic waste tops garbage left behind by tourists at Goa beaches. ■FILE PHOTO

"Our addiction to single-use plastic and lack of its waste management has resulted in a global epidemic of plastic pollution," he said.

The garbage was later handed over to the Corporation of City of Panaji for further processing, he said.

The international coastal cleanup campaign began over 30 years ago, the spokesperson said.

"We know plastic has a negative impact and we know where it is coming from. We need to prevent

this pollution, and more importantly, cut it off at the source," he added.

The NIO, a constituent laboratory of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), undertook the drive in association with the National Centre for Coastal Research and the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Over 130 staff members and students participated in the drive, led by NIO's Director Sunil Kumar Singh and senior scientists Mahua Saha and Rakesh Sharma.

## Requiem for a tree



Youngsters singing songs at a 'memorial' to mark their protest over the cutting of a 30-year-old tree by the Aurangabad Municipal Corporation in Jyotinagar area on Monday. ■YOGESH LONDHE

## 4 crocodiles rescued in Vadodara, 76 this monsoon

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA VADODARA**

Four crocodiles were rescued early on Monday from Vadodara and surrounding villages, taking the total number of these reptiles saved during this year's monsoon to 76, a senior Gujarat forest department official said.

The four crocodiles were rescued from the campus of a hostel, a railway crossing and two villages, said Range Forest Officer Nidhi Dave. "The hostel for resident doctors of Sir Sayajirao General Hospital is near Vishwamitri river and the crocodile may have come from there. One was caught from the Kalali railway crossing, while two others were rescued from



Youngsters rescue a crocodile which strayed from Vishwamitri river. ■FILE PHOTO

Hansapura and Kapurai villages," Ms. Dave said. "It created panic among the residents there. But teams of animal welfare NGOs and the forest department rescued them in an operation that lasted till 2a.m.," said Arvind Pawar, a member of the rescue team.

## Bodies of woman, four daughters found in well

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BULDHANA**

Bodies of a woman and her four daughters were found floating in a well in Buldhana district on Monday, a police official said.

The woman along with her children left their home at Malegaon village in Mehekar tehsil on Sunday evening, saying they were going to their farm nearby, he said.

When they did not return home, family members and other villagers searched for them in the area. On Monday morning, the bodies of Ujjwala Baban Dhoke (35) and her daughters Vaishnavi (9), Durga (7), Aarushi (4) and Pallavi (1) were found in a well near the village, the official said, adding that their slippers were also spotted near the water body.

The bodies were later fished out and sent to a government hospital for post-mortem, Janefal police station in-charge Dilip Mataram said.

## FTII students protest lack of representation

**SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE PUNE**

Students of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) on Monday staged a three-hour demonstration to protest the Governing Council's move to remove heads of various departments from the Academic Council (AC), as well as the total lack of student representation in the council.

The students also held a three-hour protest in the campus premises against the FTII administration with placards proclaiming 'give back our rights', 'remove fences, not HoDs'.

However, no classes were disrupted due to Monday's strike. "This protest is in solidarity with HoDs who were ousted from Academic Council. They were our only chan-



The Film and Television Institute of India in Pune has seen a number of protests by students in the recent past. ■FILE PHOTO

nel to raise our concerns as we had no representation in the AC," said Aadhit Sathvin, president, FTII Students' Association.

According to Rajarshi Majumdar, the general secretary of the FTII Students' Association, the Governing Council's decision to oust HoDs from

the AC directly affected issues concerning students like course structures, faculty appointments, decisions to award scholarships, fee hikes among others.

"If HoDs are not permitted to raise the concerns of students, the FTII management could easily steam roll deci-

sions not favourable to the student community," Mr. Majumdar said.

Mr. Sathvin said that representatives of the students' community would be meeting the chairman and other Academic Council members in Mumbai.

"Bhupendra Kainthola, Director FTII, will also be present and we are hoping for a resolution of this issue," Mr. Sathvin told *The Hindu*.

In 2015, the functioning of the institute had been paralysed for four months with students agitating against the Information and Broadcasting (I & B) Ministry's appointment of Gajendra Chauhan, TV actor and BJP member, on grounds that he lacked requisite "creative credentials" to helm a prestigious institute like the FTII.



IN BRIEF



Jagan, KCR meet; discuss diversion of Godavari

HYDERABAD  
Chief Minister of Telangana K. Chandrasekhara Rao and Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy met here to discuss the outstanding issues between the two States apart from the proposal for diversion of Godavari water to Rayalaseema through Rysailem Reservoir.

Two Maoists killed in fresh encounter

VISAKHAPATNAM  
The security forces comprising the Greyhounds, the Central Reserve Police Force and A.P. Special Police, reportedly gunned down two members of the banned outfit in another exchange of fire near Pernalagundi in Visakhapatnam on Monday. This is the second major exchange in the last 24 hours.

Screening of documentary cancelled over threats

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The screening of a Malayalam documentary on a tea shop owner's novel protest against demonetisation, scheduled to take place at the Kerala Club in Delhi on Monday, was cancelled over alleged threats from right wing activists.

Sanu Kummil's documentary *Oru Chaayakkadakkaranne Mann ki Baat* chronicles the life story of 75-year-old Yahiya, who shaved half his head in protest against demonetisation and burned the money he failed to exchange.

"Last night, I got a call from the venue coordinators saying that there could

SC to hear disqualified MLAs' plea

Former lawmakers of Karnataka seeks interim relief to contest bypoll on Oct. 21

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India on Monday told the Supreme Court that an Assembly Speaker cannot deprive disqualified Karnataka legislators from contesting bypolls even as the former MLAs urged the court to grant interim relief.

Appearing before a Bench led by Justice N.V. Ramana, the former legislators, represented by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, asked the court to either stay the notification issued on Saturday as regards byelections to 15 Karnataka Assembly constituencies or, in the alternative, give them permission to contest the polls in October.

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, for the EC, said there is "much to say" in the manner in which the former MLAs were disqualified from the House by former Karnataka Assembly Speaker K.R.



SC asked former Karnataka Speaker K.R. Ramesh Kumar to file a response.

Ramesh Kumar on the charge of violating the anti-defection law.

The Bench finally agreed to examine the plea made by the former Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) legislators for interim relief. The byelections are due on October 21. The last date for nominations for the polls is September 30.

The former Speaker, represented by senior advo-

cates Kapil Sibal and Devdatt Kamat, objected to the plea for interim relief. Mr. Sibal said any interim relief given now would become infructuous if the final verdict is in favour of the disqualification.

The Bench, which issued notice to Mr. Kumar, asked him to file a response and subsequently argue on the question of grant of interim relief on Thursday.

"Mr. Sibal, please limit your arguments to the question of interim relief only," Justice Ramana observed.

The former legislators, including Pratapgouda Patil and A.H. Vishwanath, had earlier approached the court jointly and separately against their disqualification. The petitions have urged the court to set aside the former Speaker's decision to disqualify them from the Karnataka Legislative Assembly.

MLAs see hope in EC's submission

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

The oral submission of Election Commission of India in the Supreme Court that the Speaker cannot deprive disqualified Karnataka legislators the right to contest has given hope for the rebel legislators to contest in the bypolls scheduled on October 21.

Meanwhile, the BJP has made it clear to the disqualified MLAs that it would field them in the bypolls, if they get a favourable verdict. Even if the verdict goes against them, then any person suggested by them would be fielded in their constituencies, party sources said.



Workers demolishing the unauthorised constructions on the Krishna river bed at Undavalli in A.P. on Monday. ■ V. RAJU

Demolition begins on Krishna floodplains

Notices sent months ago: CRDA official

STAFF REPORTER  
VIJAYAWADA

Three months after the demolition of 'Praja Vedika,' an unauthorised structure built by the TDP government, the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority initiated action on Monday against unauthorised private properties built in the Krishna River's floodplain area, at Undavalli village of Guntur district.

The drive began with the demolition of the RCC ramp constructed on agriculture land owned by Paturu Koteswara Rao. At least 10 metres of the ramp, supported by pillars, was jutting into the river, an official said. There is also a room with RCC roof adjoining the ramp.

Workers engaged by the CRDA wore life jackets while demolishing the structure piece by piece with sledgehammers. "We issued notices months ago," CRDA zonal assistant director T. Narendranath Reddy told *The Hindu*. "The owners responded, but couldn't provide a valid reason for constructing the ramp. The case was then disposed of, and on Saturday we gave the speaking order."

"The construction has no

permission and there were no dwellers on the property. We have initiated the demolition in accordance with the instructions given by the higher authorities," Mr. Reddy said.

The property is close to Aqua Devils Welfare Association Club and Tulasi Gardens on the Karakatta road and not too far from the temporary residence of TDP national president N. Chandrababu Naidu. Mr. Reddy said provisional notices had been issued to owners of 129 unauthorised structures.

Five cases in HC

According to CRDA, confirmation orders had been issued along with speaking orders for five buildings till date as it found no merit in the grounds mentioned by the owners. The CRDA is examining the explanation submitted by the remaining owners and five of the cases are before the High Court.

Former Chief Minister and TDP national president N. Chandrababu Naidu is residing temporarily in one of the structures owned by industrialist Lingamaneni Ramesh. On September 20, a fresh notice was served on Mr. Ramesh asking him to remove the structure within a week.

Kerala to patent temple prasadam to check fakes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In good news for devotees worried about fakes of iconic temple prasadam, including 'Sabarimala aravana,' the Travancore Devaswom Board, Kerala's apex temple body, is gearing up to obtain patent for the offerings at famous shrines managed by it.

The TDB is planning to obtain patent for the unique and sought-after prasadam like 'Ambalapuzha palpayasam' and 'Kottarakkara unniyappam' and 'aravana,' offered at the famous shrines managed by it. Obtaining the patent would bar others from naming or selling the prasadam under the same name.

If things go as per plan, 'aravana,' the jaggery dessert offered at the Sabarimala Lord Ayyappa Temple, 'unniyappam,' the sweet ball prepared at Kottarakkara Ganapathy Temple and 'palpayasam' and milk porridge at Ambalappuzha Sree Krishna shrine will get patent rights under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act.

All these prasadam are known for their unique taste and preparation.

A top TDB official said the move was to check the sale of counterfeit versions by hawkers.

"Several instances of the sale of fake products under the pretext of famous temple prasadam have come to our notice."

"We have taken legal steps against those behind the cheating. In view of that, we have taken the decision to apply to get patent for our unique prasadam," TDB president A. Padmakumar said.

Playing with lives



Utter neglect: Tourists entering the sea, ignoring the signboard which cautions them against swimming, in Visakhapatnam on Monday. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

Survey of dragonflies hints at impact of floods

Alarming fall in odonate population in Kerala

ABDUL LATHEEF NAHA  
PALAKKAD

A survey of dragonflies and damselflies held in the Silent Valley National Park (SVNP) has discovered eight new species, but reported an alarming decrease in the odonate population, raising concerns over the ecological impact of the successive floods in the State.

The three-day survey, conducted last week jointly by the Silent Valley National Park and the Society for Odonate Studies, showed that several dragonfly species, including the Global Wanderer (*Pantala flavescens*), were missing from the national



Asian Emerald

park. V. Balachandran, secretary of the Indian Dragonfly Society, said that the aberrant rain pattern and the successive floods in the State could have decimated the population of dragonflies and damselflies in the SVNP.

"Odonates spend much of their lifetime as eggs and larvae under water. The floods could have washed them off. We need to conduct more studies in other parts of the



Scalloped Spreadwing

State to get a clearer picture," said Mr. Balachandran.

However, eight new odonate species were found in the survey held in 11 camps across the buffer and core areas of the national park.

"Our study teams came up with 75 species of dragonflies and damselflies, taking the total number of odonate species in the Silent Valley to 91," said Silent Valley Wildlife

Warden Samuel Vanlalngheita Pachuau.

The new species found in the survey includes the Hemiorculia asiatica (Asian Emerald), which was reported from the Periyar Tiger Reserve in 2017. This rare dragonfly had gone unreported for over 80 years, and this was its second sighting from any protected forest in the State.

Macrogomphus wynadicus (Wayanad Bowtail), Onychogomphus nilgiriensis (Nilgiri Clavetail), Epithemis mariae (Rubyttailed Hawkle), Palpopleura sexmaculata (Blue-Tailed Yellow Skimmer) and Neurothemis intermedia (Paddy Field Parasol) were the other interesting finds among dragonflies.

Agrocnemis splendidissima (Splendid Dartlet), Lestes dorothea (Scalloped

Spreadwing), Onychargia atrocyana (Black Marsh Dart), Phylloneura westermanni (Myristica Bamboo-tail), Euphaea disper (Nilgiri Torrent Dart) and Protosticia gravelly (Pied Reedtail) were some of the decorated findings among damselflies.

Biological indicators

Mr. Pachuau said odonates were great biological indicators and studies on them would provide crucial information on the health of aquatic habitats and variations occurring in the climate. Odonates are good pest controllers, too.

"Regular monitoring over a long period will help us assess the changes in our natural landscape. The Silent Valley National Park aspires to be the front runner in such initiatives," said Mr. Pachuau.

Vembanad model to track CRZ violations

NCESS team used digital images to map changes

K.S. SUDHI  
KOCHI

The Vembanad model of identifying changes in the coastal belt could be emulated to track illegal structures along the Kerala coast.

It was while considering an affidavit by Chief Secretary Tom Jose on Monday that the Supreme Court orally hinted at the need to conduct a survey of the Kerala coast to identify the number of illegal buildings.

It took just a fortnight for geoscientists in 2013 to identify the major changes in the 100 metre Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ), which could be probable CRZ violations, along the banks of Vembanad covering Kochi, Kottayam, and Alappuzha districts, said K.V. Thomas, former head of the Coastal Process Group of the Nation-



A view of Jain Housing, one of the apartments built violating the CRZ norms in Maradu municipality. ■ FILE PHOTO

Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS), Thiruvananthapuram, who led the programme.

The Vembanad model could be tried out along the entire Kerala coast, he said.

The changes and modifications on land due to reclamations, filling of filtration ponds, clearance of mangroves, and construction of buildings between 2003 and 2011 in the stretch north of the Thanneermukkom bund and south of Periyar south of Kodungallur were assessed

using satellite images downloaded from Google and World View images.

The assessment, which was initiated after an order from the Supreme Court in 2013, succeeded in identifying nearly 5,000 suspected violations, he said.

The changes were listed as new buildings in the CRZ, reclamations with new buildings in CRZ, reclamations with no new building in CRZ, and structures other than reclamations and buildings, namely boat jetties and

bridges, in the CRZ area. The data thus generated was shared with all local bodies along the banks of the lake.

Details like the year in which the changes/modification were initiated and latitude and longitude of the locations were also provided. A detailed list of changes in the CRZ area of the Kochi Corporation and the Maradu municipality were provided in a tabular form.

The local bodies were required to do the field verification to ascertain whether the modifications were in violation of the CRZ, explained Dr. Thomas.

Though the data, which was then called 'land use modifications', were handed over to all local bodies, including Maradu municipality and Kochi Corporation, the purpose of the programme was defeated by not physically verifying it, said K.K. Ramachandran, former member Secretary of the Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority.

Giant earthworm found at the foot of Western Ghats

Measuring 3 ft 5 cm, it was discovered by farmworkers

RAVIPRASAD KAMILA  
MANGALURU

Farmworkers in the land belonging to Gopalakrishna Katta in Kollamogaru village, near Kukke Subrahmanya in Karnataka, were taken aback when they saw a "snake-like creature" while removing soil for roadwork in January. Assuming it was a snake, they rushed to the landowner's house to inform him.

But little did the workers realise that they had found a giant earthworm, measuring 3 feet and 5 cm, which has not been reported in the Western Ghats and the coastal belt of Karnataka so far. It was the landowner's son, Nishant Katta, a postgrad-



The giant earthworm found in Dakshina Kannada is preserved in the Mangalore University. ■ RAVIPRASAD KAMILA

uate in Applied Zoology, who told them that it was not a snake but an earthworm.

Surprised and excited, Mr. Katta called up K.S. Sreepada, professor of Applied Zoology, Mangalore University, and Vivek Hasyagar, a research scholar in the same

department, for further studies. Both are members of a research team on earthworms at the university. Now, the earthworm has been preserved in chemical solutions at the laboratory of the department at the Mangalagotri campus of the university.





**IN BRIEF**  
**ED moves application against Zakir Naik**

MUMBAI  
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) moved an application before the special Prevention of Money Laundering Act court on Monday to declare the controversial televangelist Zakir Naik a Fugitive Economic Offender under the new law.

**Dutee Chand ready for political run**

BHUBANESWAR  
India's fastest sprinter, Dutee Chand, who hails from the Jajpur district of Odisha, has announced that she is keen to join politics. "I have always wanted to join politics since childhood. My family has also been involved in grassroots politics," she tweeted on Monday.

**Petrol, diesel prices increased again**

NEW DELHI  
Petrol and diesel prices were hiked on Monday by ₹0.29 and ₹0.19 a litre respectively, the seventh significant increase following drone attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil processing facilities on September 14. Petrol will now cost ₹73.91 and diesel ₹66.93 per litre in Delhi.

**Bank unions defer proposed 2-day strike**

NEW DELHI  
Officers' unions of public sector banks have deferred the proposed two-day strike following an assurance from Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar to look into their concerns. Unions had threatened to go on strike from September 26 to protest the consolidation of 10 State-run lenders. PTI

**Govt. asks States to link emission data with Vahan**

NEW DELHI  
The Centre on Monday asked all States to ensure the linking of emission test data of vehicles with the Vahan database. The central depository called Vahan has been set up by the government to store data relating to all vehicles. PTI

# High drama as ABVP attempts to storm Jadavpur University

Police prevent clash with Left supporters

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA**

A confrontation was averted at Kolkata's Jadavpur University on Monday as police prevented supporters of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) and students' wings of the Left parties from coming face to face.

ABVP supporters took out a procession in protest against the incident on September 19 when Union Minister for State Babul Supriyo was heckled at the University.

The procession of a few hundred ABVP members started from Golpark in south Kolkata but was stopped at Jodhpur Park near the University campus.

Police personnel who were deployed in large numbers since the morning had put up barricades and prevented the ABVP members



**Protest march:** Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad activists attempting to break a police cordon during their march towards Jadavpur University in Kolkata on Monday. **PTI**

to march further.

A commotion ensued for some time as ABVP supporters sat on the street. They also indulged in stone pelt-ing and tried to breach the barricades using force.

**Protest inside campus**

Inside the campus too, students had gathered in large numbers. They carried anti-BJP posters and wore black.

A few teachers of the university were also seen forming a human chain outside

gate no. 4 of the University.

**'Use of force'**

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee broke her silence on the incident and accused the BJP of forcible entry into the University. "You are all witnessing what is happening at Jadavpur University. They are using force everywhere," the Chief Minister said while participating in an event in Kolkata.

The State government-run University had on Septem-

ber 19 witnessed a violent standoff between a section of students and Union Minister Babul Supriyo that continued for five hours and had ended at the intervention of Governor Jagdeep Dhankar.

In a related development, fashion designer-turned-BJP member Agnimitra Paul met the Governor on Monday and also lodged a police complaint against a student for making "objectionable" statements against her on social media.

# Justice Bhat who put CJI under RTI is now SC judge

He had declared Chief Justice of India as a public authority

**KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL NEW DELHI**

Among the four sworn in as Supreme Court judges by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi on Monday is Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, who, exactly 10 years ago as a Delhi High Court judge, dismissed a Supreme Court appeal and declared the Office of the Chief Justice of India subser-vient to the Right to Information regime.

Justice Bhat, along with Justices V. Ramasubramanian, Krishna Murari and Hrishikesh Roy are the first to be sworn in after the judicial strength of the Supreme Court was increased from 31 to 34.

**'Public authority'**

But for Justice Bhat being part of history is nothing new. In September 2009, as a Single Judge Bench, he declared the Chief Justice of India a "public authority" under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.



Rejecting an appeal, the first of its kind, by the Central Public Information Officer of the Supreme Court, he held the CJI's office has a duty to disclose the details of personal assets of other apex court judges.

"All power - judicial power being no exception - is held accountable in a modern Constitution. Holders of power too are expected to live by the standards they set, interpret, or enforce, at least to the extent their office demands," Justice Bhat had told the Supreme Court

in his 72-page judgment of 2009.

The judgment said there was "no clue" that the RTI Act exempted the CJI from its ambit. In fact, it does not even spare the President of India. Besides, Justice Bhat wrote that a "judge's independence, paradoxically imposes duties on him."

The judgment said that a judge whose decisions could impact peoples' lives, property, liberties, individual freedoms as well as interpret duties and limitations placed upon state and non-state agencies has an obligation to disclose his or her personal assets to someone or an authority.

The ruling was on an RTI request made by activist Subhash Chandra Agarwal in the Supreme Court for the complete correspondence between the Collegium and the government on the appointments of Justices H.L. Dattu, A.K. Ganguly and R.M. Lodha.

# Talwar, others named in CBI charge sheet

Agency invokes IPC, Corruption Act

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI**

The CBI has filed a charge sheet against corporate lobbyist Deepak Talwar and others in an aviation scam case.

Among those named as accused in the charge sheet are Yasmin Kapoor, Maya B. Puri, Stone Travel Private Limited, Cedar Travels, Deepak Talwar & Associates and Asia Field Limited.

The agency has invoked provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Prevention of Corruption Act against the accused persons. "Mr.



Deepak Talwar

Talwar allegedly conspired with his aides to facilitate bilateral agreements in favour of foreign airlines for enhancement of seat entitlements and points of call which caused loss to national carriers," a CBI official said.

# '6 died in Bengal due to NRC fear'

Mamata Banerjee rules out any such exercise in the State

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA**

Raking up the issue of National Register of Citizens (NRC), West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and a section of media for creating tension and claimed that six persons had died in the State due to fear of NRC.

"I am extremely sad that in Bengal six persons have died due to fear of NRC," Ms. Banerjee said, addressing a gathering of members of the trade union wing of Trinamool Congress.

The Chief Minister said that what the BJP leaders were saying was part of their



Mamata Banerjee

political agenda but the media "keeps doing shows after shows on that one thing to heighten tensions among the masses".

"And this has caused six people to die. I have already requested the media that we

should not indulge in any provocation," she said.

The Chief Minister asked the people to have faith in her and categorically ruled out any exercise of NRC in Bengal. "NRC will take place neither in Bengal nor in any other part of the country," she said, urging people to update their names in the voters' list. Earlier this month, a resolution was passed in the State Assembly against the NRC and the Chief Minister had taken to the streets on the issue.

Ms. Banerjee had also raised the issue of NRC during her meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi.

## WEATHER WATCH



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Tuesday:** Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	.....	32.6	24.6	Kozhikode	.....	33.3	26.2
Ahmedabad	1.0	34.0	25.9	Kurnool	.....	33.2	25.7
Aizawl	22.0	28.3	20.5	Lucknow	9.6	28.4	24.0
Allahabad	0.6	32.1	26.4	Madurai	8.3	35.7	24.8
Bangaluru	0.2	28.7	20.6	Mangaluru	.....	31.4	24.8
Bhopal	8.0	31.8	22.6	Mumbai	.....	32.4	25.6
Bhubaneswar	37.0	31.7	25.0	Mysuru	.....	31.2	21.5
Chandigarh	.....	33.8	23.6	New Delhi	.....	32.5	24.0
Chennai	11.8	33.4	25.7	Patna	19.2	33.6	25.2
Coimbatore	1.2	33.6	24.0	Port Blair	6.0	28.6	24.2
Dehradun	0.8	32.3	21.0	Puducherry	.....	32.8	23.4
Gangtok	4.8	19.3	16.0	Pune	.....	31.3	20.3
Goa	0.2	31.5	23.8	Rajpur	.....	33.6	26.2
Gwalhati	6.4	31.4	24.8	Ranchi	0.2	31.0	23.0
Hubballi	.....	29.0	21.0	Shillong	7.6	24.9	15.9
Hyderabad	0.2	32.6	23.2	Shimla	26.4	23.4	19.5
Imphal	15.0	27.3	20.1	Srinagar	.....	30.9	14.6
Jaipur	.....	32.7	22.5	Thiruvananthapuram	.....	32.1	24.7
Kochi	3.0	31.6	25.2	Tiruchi	.....	35.7	25.0
Kohima	47.0	26.0	17.6	Vijayawada	.....	33.3	26.0
Kolkata	1.2	31.6	26.9	Visakhapatnam	0.6	33.7	27.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad	.....	102	130	170	.....	96	.....
Bangaluru	.....	02	57	93	.....	54	.....
Chennai	.....	08	13	35	175	.....	.....
Delhi	.....	15	47	46	184	174	.....
Hyderabad	.....	13	42	27	55	64	.....
Kolkata	.....	03	37	53	27	38	.....
Lucknow	.....	05	31	43	75	.....	.....
Mumbai	.....	08	22	81	45	.....	.....
Pune	.....	85	08	66	44	44	.....
Visakhapatnam	.....	.....	19	23	.....	20	.....

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**SO<sub>2</sub>:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.  
**NO<sub>2</sub>:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.  
**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, unconsciousness and even death.  
**PM<sub>2.5</sub> & PM<sub>10</sub>:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

# Man lynched, 2 injured in Jharkhand

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KHUNTI**

A differently-abled man was killed and two others seriously injured after they were allegedly beaten up by a mob over suspicion of slaughtering a cow in Jharkhand's Khunti district, police said on Monday.

The incident happened after local residents allegedly spotted Kalantus Barla, Fagu Kacchap and Philip Horo with the carcass of a cow near a river at Jaltanga village on Sunday, and assaulted them, a police officer said.

An FIR has been filed against four persons, an official release said.



DGP Dilbag Singh

restoration of mobile phone and Internet services in the Valley.

"Detentions are a dynamic process. There are certain areas where youth come and throw stones. Our purpose is to not cause any harm to them... they are subsequently counselled and handed back to their families," Mr. Singh said.

He said some 200 people

were retained in jails as they were repeat offenders and multiple cases were registered against them.

"There are cases where an entire village would come and give assurance for a boy. A small kid cannot understand the consequences of his acts. But there are repeat offenders, you counsel them but they do not correct themselves. We cannot allow people to commit crime... but now even that number is going down. More and more people are released. Very few are in detention," he said. Mr. Singh said the police and security forces were exercising restraint and "pellet guns were used in almost zero cases".

"Earlier pellet gun injuries used to be in hundreds. This time only two such incidents have been reported. Look at the kind of pressure we are

working under... as many as 90 security force personnel have been injured, some got stitches, a few have fractured limbs ... but we are using minimum force," he said.

He said the number of people lodged in jails outside the State was not more than 200 and they were shifted due to acute pressure and lack of space in jails here. Those arrested also include Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association president Mian Qayoom.

Regarding Mr. Qayoom's arrest, the DGP said, "The Bar president is very well known for his past records resulting in certain activities that are prejudicial to maintenance of peace and order...They aligned with the Hurriyat in the past and participated in activities not very conducive to maintenance of peace and order."

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Texan outreach

Though both leaders gained from the Houston rally, it was not diplomacy at its best

The Houston gathering of the Indian diaspora in the U.S. on Sunday addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump was a resounding success in meeting its stated and implied objectives. Mr. Modi has drafted Indian diaspora communities in several countries for advancing his strategic objectives. The diaspora in the U.S. is of pre-eminent significance given its increasing political heft and the centrality of the U.S. in India’s strategic architecture. Mr. Trump’s appearance at the rally and his effusive support for India were a reflection of the community’s influence in U.S. politics. He named fighting “radical Islamic terrorism” as a key common interest of the two countries, spurring a standing ovation by the audience, including Mr. Modi. Mr. Trump also emphasised border security, a controversial topic in both democracies. Mr. Modi presented the ending of autonomy for Jammu and Kashmir to the cheering crowd as a significant achievement of this government. The rally galvanised the diaspora in support for Mr. Modi’s politics in India, and enticed Mr. Trump.

The rally’s unintended outcomes could be more complex. The massive movement of people across national borders has created diasporas that, in turn, have created new political forces. This is a particularly sensitive component of global politics. Its enthusiasm for India notwithstanding, aspirations of the diaspora and the priorities of India don’t necessarily converge. Drawing its members too deep into India’s domestic politics, and India’s involvement in their politics, are both fraught with risks. Mr. Modi nearly endorsed Mr. Trump’s re-election bid, and the jamboree was unprecedented for the divisions it created among the diaspora. Civil rights groups and groups of Kashmiris, Dalits and Muslims, who have been critical of Mr. Trump, also called out the Modi government for its policies. Democrats by and large took a dim view of the event, and the audience and Mr. Modi greeted Majority Leader in the House of Representatives Steny Hoyer’s reminder that India drew on its strength of Nehruvian secularism with stony silence. Mr. Trump’s implied endorsement of Mr. Modi’s Kashmir policy was music to the ears of those in the audience, but the underlying principle of his America First nationalism that it has no role to play globally other than protecting its own interests could lead to outcomes not to India’s liking. The absence of four of the five Indian-American members of the U.S. Congress – all Democrats – at the gathering was also noteworthy. The transposition of India-Pakistan rivalry into a contest between the two diasporas is also unpleasant. Despite what Houston achieved for the two leaders, a line may have been crossed in the mixing of partisan national politics with international diplomacy.

Credibility deficit

The Justice Kureshi episode raises fresh questions about the Collegium’s role

In modifying its recommendation concerning Justice A.A. Kureshi, the Supreme Court Collegium appears to have succumbed to pressure from the Union government. Modifying its resolution of May 10 that the senior judge be appointed Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, the Collegium has now decided to send him to the Tripura High Court. It was quite apparent that the Centre was averse to the elevation of Justice Kureshi, who is from the Gujarat High Court, but serving in the Bombay High Court on transfer. The government did not act on the recommendation for months, raising the suspicion that it was blocking his appointment. The Collegium modified its decision after considering letters from the Department of Justice on August 23 and 27, and “accompanying material”. It is not known if the controversy has ended. It is possible that the Collegium and the Centre have arrived at a compromise under which the government drops its opposition to his appointment as Chief Justice on the condition that he is sent to a smaller high court. However, until his appointment as head of the Tripura High Court is notified, there will be a lurking doubt on whether the latest resolution is in line with the Centre’s approval. Under the current procedure, the Collegium may reconsider a recommendation, but the government is bound to implement a decision that is reiterated.

It is quite acceptable if the Collegium and the government resolve their differences through consultation and correspondence, but the final decision should not be opaque, mysterious and indicative of executive pressure. It is common to charge the Collegium with lack of transparency, but in this case, the government is equally guilty. If the Law Ministry had a bona-fide objection to Justice Kureshi, it could have disclosed its opinion on his suitability. The failure to do so has the inevitable consequence of the public imagination concluding that the ruling party is blocking his elevation because of judicial orders he had passed while serving in Gujarat. As for the Collegium, it is unclear why it could not have disclosed what the government had wanted in its communications. This episode makes a dent in the prevailing narrative that the Collegium system is a shield against executive interference in judicial appointments. The time may have come for the two sides to come up with fresh clauses in the existing procedure of appointments under which the Collegium’s decisions are implemented within a time-frame, and the government’s objections and reservations, if any, are made public. Only then can the credibility deficit be bridged. But, even so, what is indisputable is that the Collegium system is deeply flawed, and is in need of urgent remedy.

Making the grand Indian PSB mergers work

Only a visionary leadership can bring the efficiency parameters of the merged entities in line with those of private banks



R. KRISHNAMURTHY

The initial enthusiasm of market analysts to the bank merger announcement is giving way to wariness and scepticism. There is a feeling that the potential benefits would take several years to show up and, meanwhile, the turbulence in the banks could take a toll on the real economy.

The merger move demonstrates once again the lackadaisical approach of policy planners in implementing sensible banking reforms in Public Sector Banks (PSBs), first mooted by the Narasimham Committee more than a quarter century ago. While the committee had cautioned against merging weak banks, the government has ended doing precisely that. The consolidation should have been a gradual and calibrated exercise resulting in a smaller number of well-capitalised and professionally managed PSBs with a sound governance structure. Instead, what has come is a shotgun ‘reform’ decision at a time when PSBs are in deep malaise.

A key concern about merging the ten PSBs into four in one stroke is a lack of clear articulation of the rationale behind bringing disparate and weak banks together, some of whom were still under the Reserve Bank of India’s Prompt Corrective Action (PCA). Further, such merger announcements generally trigger confusion, anxiety and insecurity in staff, leading to a slowdown in business. When decades-old brands are sud-

denly obliterated, there is widespread dismay. Poor communication within PSBs exacerbates the challenges. The smooth manner in which SBI merged five of its associate banks (ABs) in 2017 is not a relevant example in this regard. SBI had managed the ABs over the years with its own senior team, and all associates had already been functioning on common technology platform. In fact, left to its own, SBI would have preferred a gradual acquisition. The merger was forced upon it in the worst year of its history.

Reversing decline in returns

The efficiency gains from the mergers for large PSBs would be largely illusory in the absence of a sound management with a vision for the future. The post-merger scale economies that large international banks seek to achieve with ruthless measures are not feasible in India. Our objective should be to create bigger PSBs that can mirror the efficiency parameters of leading private sector banks here. The chief goal should be to reverse the decline in the PSBs’ Return on Equity (RoE) after investing considerable sums in bringing them on a common technology platform, and introducing better risk management measures. The merged entities should become agile and capable of meeting the challenges in retail and mass market segments from private players and open banking sources.

To smoothen the merger process, six measures may be worth considering. First, it needs to be ensured that there is no leadership vacuum in the anchor banks. Mergers require strong skills in thought leadership, results leadership and people leadership. The

technical skills needed for integration planning, transforming business support functions and value build-up have to be cultivated. There is a strong need to revamp Human Resources (HR) practices and culturally integrate the expanded workforce through sustained training initiatives.

It is vital to give the current heads of anchor banks a three-year term, or a tenure that lasts till the incumbents reach the age of 62 years, to avoid uncertainties in managing the transformation, and to enable the chiefs develop a second line. It is equally important that the top leadership comes from within the banks based on performance. The practice over the years of shuffling senior executives from one PSB to another has done more harm than good.

Second, there is a need to recruit professionals from the market in key areas of technology, HR and risk management, in all of which PSBs are grossly under-equipped. Such recruitments should obviously be at market pay, which is the norm in joint ventures promoted by PSBs such as SBI.

Training the front-line staff

Third, PSBs should not be found wanting when it comes to recruitment and training of front-line staff. There is a fear that the ‘merger wave’ may sink fresh hiring. While there will be rationalisation of headcount due to voluntary exits spurred by relocation and other compulsions, many staff members moved across their former banks may be less than suitable for the new roles. A buoyant exercise of recruitment and training is vital.

Fourth, the government should actively plan steps to offset a possible slow expansion in bank credit



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in the near term. There is a decelerating trend in loan approvals by PSBs, as brought out in the last RBI report on Trend and Progress of Banking. More risk aversion on the part of bankers, coupled with their internal preoccupations, could further slacken credit growth. Loan melas and directed lending measures would not be the ideal solution. Instead Non-Banking Financial Institutions (NBFCs), which have a better understanding of the market needs, need to be tapped to ensure better credit flow. In terms of size, NBFCs are about 15% of the combined balance sheet of all banks. They should be enabled to step in more actively to fill the gap in funding Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, which are facing real issues as regards credit availability.

Here, it may be good to consider expanding the scope of the partial credit guarantee scheme announced in this year’s budget to cover all NBFCs treated as Asset Fi-

nance Companies, instead of restricting it to the top-tier NBFCs, which any way have access to multiple sources. The proposed six-month guarantee could also be raised to two years to build a sustained momentum.

Further, the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises managed by SIDBI may be revamped to assist more NBFCs. Drawings by NBFCs constitute just 7% of the disbursements made so far, and smaller firms are not even aware of this option.

Ownership tangles

Fifth, the government should resolve the tangles in the ownership of the merging PSBs in insurance, asset management and other ventures. Some ventures involve foreign partners, and some are market-listed. The anchor banks should be free to take the best course that would optimise the value of such investments.

Lastly, the government should consider converting a few ‘weak’ PSBs outside the merger into regional banks. This was one of the recommendations of the Narasimham Committee. Banks such as Bank of Maharashtra and Punjab and Sind Bank that have spread manpower, network, and resources thin could be turned into vibrant regional institutions to serve agriculture, trade and commerce.

While such consolidation can result in handsome productivity gains, what matters is the quality of execution by a stable and committed leadership, aided by a shrewd and benign ownership.

R. Krishnamurthy is the former Managing Director and CEO of SBI Life Insurance. He was Officer on Special Duty at the Dept. of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance

Climate justice through judicial diktat

The Supreme Court has erred in the Maradu case by placing the liability squarely on the apartment owners



MATHEW IDICULLA

A Supreme Court order for demolishing a set of apartments in Maradu, a suburb in Ernakulam, has caused a legal and political crisis. The deadline for demolishing the four backwater-facing high-rise apartments ended last Friday. However, the 350-odd families residing there have refused to move.

On September 11, while the rest of Kerala gorged the quintessential Onam *sadhya*, residents of these four complexes were on a hunger strike at the Maradu Municipality office. They have now gained wider support with all major political parties, including the Congress, the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) opposing the demolition. After dithering initially, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has stated that his government will pursue all options to protect the residents.

In 2006, the Maradu panchayat had granted building permissions for constructing the apartments. However, after a directive from the local self-government department, the panchayat issued a show-cause notice to the builders

for violating Coastal Regulatory Zone (CRZ) rules. The builders got a stay order from the Kerala High Court in 2007 which allowed them to continue construction. The High Court ruled in favour of the builders stating that they can’t be held responsible for the failure of local authorities to comply with statutory provisions.

After a Division Bench upheld this verdict, the Kerala State Coastal Zone Management Authority (KCZMA) approached the Supreme Court, which constituted a three-member panel to examine whether the buildings violated CRZ norms. Based on the panel’s report that the buildings fell within CRZ-III, the Supreme Court on May 8 ordered the demolition of the apartments. After dismissing the review petitions, the apex court on September 6 ordered the demolition to be completed by September 20.

On Monday, during a suo motu hearing on the lack of action on the part of the State in carrying out its order, the apex court pulled up the Kerala Chief Secretary, accusing the State authorities of “playing with nature”.

Blind spots and concerns

The case raises multiple concerns regarding environmental governance and adjudication. Even the key question of whether the apartments fall within CRZ-III, which would prohibit construction with-



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in 200 metres from the High Tide Line, or the less restrictive CRZ-II is unsettled. The three-member panel appointed by the Supreme Court stated that as per the CRZ notification of 1991 and the Kerala Coastal Zone Management Plan, 1996, the area in question came under CRZ-III. Maradu became a municipality in 2010 and consequently, the 2011 CRZ notification categorised it under CRZ-II, though the Union Environment Ministry approved this only in February 2019.

The Court held that since at the time of construction, the area fell within CRZ-III, these were unauthorised constructions. The Court adopted a narrow view by merely examining the bureaucratic categorisation and ignored that the construction was based on permission granted by the local government and orders of the High Court. While the Kerala High Court held that permit holders shouldn’t be made liable for the

regulatory oversight of local authorities, the Supreme Court did not address this question.

The process of adjudication through a three-member committee also raises questions since it further delegated the task to another technical committee, which the residents allege, did not give them a fair hearing.

This case reveals the court’s massive blind spot: the real-world implications of its verdict. The order cryptically states “let all the structures be removed forthwith within a period of one month from today” without clearly stating who should undertake the demolition.

Alarming, the court is silent on the fate of the owners and residents of the apartments. Unlike most judgments on evictions, the court does not pronounce on the question of rehabilitation or compensation for those who would lose their homes.

A technocratic approach

While the demolition is ostensibly for protecting the environment, the Supreme Court order doesn’t sufficiently explain how the constructions in question damage the environment. Instead of a jurisprudence on environmental justice, it adopted technocratic proceduralism for arriving at its verdict. Ironically, more serious environmental damage is likely to be caused by the demolition of the apartments. A report by IIT-Ma-

dras has highlighted that air pollution caused by the demolition would pose severe health hazards to those residing nearby, besides the long-term environmental costs of the debris generated. Fearing the “collateral damage” of the demolition, a person residing close to the apartments has filed a petition in the Supreme Court opposing the unplanned implosion/explosion of the buildings.

The case highlights the pathologies of executive and judicial decision-making on environment and urban development in India. While State authorities and courts were complicit in allowing the buildings to be constructed in the first place, liability is now being placed squarely on the apartment owners. In some regards, it is a continuation of the jurisprudence based on court-appointed committees rather than hearing affected parties that resulted, especially in Delhi, in the demolition of numerous “illegal slums”. This logic has now come back to bite the middle class. For environmental justice, what we need is a strong environmental governance system that enables all stakeholders to prevent violations instead of the court becoming India’s new demolition man.

Mathew Idiculla is a lawyer and researcher on urban issues and a consultant with the Centre for Law and Policy Research

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

To America, in pomp

In its appearance, the ‘Howdy, Modi!’ event in Houston was a big success. It made for a magnificent spectacle and a visual treat. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in his element and his address delivered to the rapturous applause of the audience was an exercise in grandstanding. However, only by looking at India through rose-coloured spectacles can we agree with Mr. Modi’s assertion that “everything is fine in India”. Seeing impoverishment, joblessness, farmer distress, mob lynchings, jailing of dissenters and the like and speaking about them are nowadays left to ‘anti-nationals’ and ‘urban Naxals’. One thing that Mr. Trump and Mr. Modi – leaders of predominantly Christian and Hindu

nations – share and makes them look similar is their conscious dissociation from Islam. Their allusion to ‘extremist Islamist groups’ as the common enemy and threats from them was not lost on anyone. Mr. Modi opined that Article 370 “benefitted separatists and terrorists”. But he did not explain as to why its dilution by a two-thirds majority in the Parliament was followed by repressive measures and restrictions in the Valley. We couldn’t agree more with Modi when he said, “Diversity is the strength of our democracy.” To add to what he said, it is the defining feature of our democracy.

G. DAVID MILTON,  
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

■ Let us ask an honest question: What was achieved through this cleverly

choreographed extravaganza? Two world leaders who are supposed to be the representatives of the two largest democracies met with much fanfare and pomp. In fact, neither Mr. Modi nor Mr. Trump today actually symbolise what the real India or the real U.S. is meant to be; they represent a grossly distorted view of their countries. True, they are both elected leaders; but that does not add credibility to their their authoritarianism. Mr. Trump represents the deep-rooted bigotry of white supremacy while Mr. Modi represents extreme polarisation based on the ideology of Hindutva. Thinking citizens of both the countries will pause before jumping on the populist bandwagon of such glamour and glitter.

DR. K. VARKEY,  
Dindigul, Tamilnadu

■ In tune with popular Telugu proverb *Inta gelichi rachcha geluvu* (which means, “First win at home before conquering the world”), Mr. Modi needs to address first the nation’s burning issues such as economic slowdown, falling GDP and rupee and increasing unemployment, farmer suicides, bad loans in banks and so on. Let us see how celebrations and speeches in the U.S. bring investments to India to resolve its issues.

KSHIRASAGARA BALAJI RAO,  
Hyderabad

Dynastic politics

Union Home Minister and BJP president Amit Shah has appealed to voters to choose between nationalistic parties, such as his party and family-oriented parties, such as the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party, in

the Maharashtra Assembly election (Front page, “Choose Nationalistic parties, says Amit Shah,” Sept. 23). In Maharashtra, the BJP’s principal ally is the Shiv Sena which is a family-oriented party. Will Mr. Shah tell the voters there not to vote for Shiv Sena candidates in the forthcoming Assembly election? Does he remember that in Punjab, the Shiromani Akali Dal, another family-oriented party, is his outfit’s alliance partner?

C.G. KURIAKOSE,  
Kothamangalam, Kerala

A new paradise?

Mr. Modi recently said “Let’s build a new paradise in Kashmir.” But what’s happening in Kashmir is the exact opposite. The Army has an iron grip over the people. The Internet is the lifeblood of administration and economy worldwide. By

shutting it down, the whole of Kashmir has been isolated. With the IT industry, a strength of India, not being able to function in the Valley, I wonder what paradise Mr. Modi talks about. Unemployment is at a record high in the whole of the nation. Will it magically fall in Kashmir after the abrogation of its special status? If the IT companies in the valley are closed, the number of unemployed youth is only going to grow. It is being repeatedly demonstrated that the government’s act of unilaterally changing the status of the erstwhile State was not a pragmatic move (“Kashmir Valley’s IT hub gasps as Net shutdown continues,” Sept. 23).

T. ANAND RAJ,  
Chennai

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The importance of listening well

Conversations between governments and citizens and among citizens themselves are crucial in a democracy



A very instructive passage on the difference in norms of debate among ancient Indian scholars, on the one hand, and kings and their subjects, on the other is found in the ancient text, Milinda-pañha. It records an exchange between the Indo-Greek king Milinda (Menander) and the Buddhist monk Nāgasena.

When the king fails to understand a point made by Nāgasena, he asks, "Will you discuss with me again?"

Nāgasena says: "If your Majesty will discuss as a scholar (pan d tta yes; but if you discuss as a king, no."

"How do scholars discuss?" "When scholars talk a matter over with each other, there is a winding up, an unravelling; distinctions are made and counter-distinctions; one or other is convinced of error, and then acknowledges his mistake; and yet thereby they are not angered. Thus, do scholars, O king, discuss."

"And how do kings discuss?" "When a king, your Majesty, discusses a matter, and he advances a point, if anyone differs from him on that point, he is apt to fine him saying: 'Inflict such and such a punishment upon that fellow!' Thus, Your Majesty, do kings discuss."

Debates in ancient India, the text seems to say, were tranquil, stress-free events in which participants did not hesitate to change their opinions where necessary, a far cry from royal (political) discussions in which disagreement with political rulers was frequently fraught with danger and winning a debate was almost, and sometimes literally, a matter of life and death.

Listening to citizens

In fact, democracy is the only form of government where rules of scholarly and political debate are supposed to coincide, both among citizens and between governments and citizens. Debates are meant to be conducted fearlessly and in the ensuing discussion, mistakes are acknowledged and opinions changed. There is no anger or sense of humiliation if and when one is shown to be in-



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ror. Public arguments are meant to compel citizens to openly acknowledge when proven wrong and force governments to admit their mistakes and change policies. But is any of this possible without proper listening? It is said that it is the privilege of powerful people to speak and the lot of the powerless to listen. The beauty of democracy is that it obliges the powerful to listen.

Of course, even democratic governments do not always listen to their electors. But as soon as their legitimacy dips below a certain threshold, as soon as their habit of turning a deaf ear to their people threatens their survival, they seem instinctively to know that it is absolutely crucial to start listening.

Something akin to this appears to have recently taken place in India. A month ago, the current government appeared not to be listening to anyone. And although it is arguable that only a few top corporates were eventually heard, it is equally true that after months of silence on the pleadings of the 'people' to do something about the economic slowdown, the government finally listened to someone. Can we not now take this as an opportunity to demand an extension of this courtesy to others? To the farmers, or the poor more generally? To, say, teachers, scholars, dancers, musicians, painters, town-planners on education and cultural policy? To Kashmiris, Dalits and the minorities? Should not the government listen to those who dissent from their policies?

It is pretty obvious to me that the answer to these questions must be in the affirmative. Good governments make a habit of listening to citizens. Indeed, in democracies, those temporarily in power need to develop

the quality of being good listeners, sushruta. What do I mean by this and how will this help?

Good listening

Allowing someone to speak is, of course, the first precondition of listening. Remaining quiet while she is speaking is another. But silence can still mean not listening. One may even pretend to listen, but remain disengaged or distracted. We all know that there exists what might be called 'vacant-look listening', when the interlocutor is physically present but mentally absent. Even sincere silence may just convey paternalistic assurance or be viewed as a strategy to allow the speaker to let off steam. It can betray biased judgment, moralising, or a readiness for instant advice. These are conversation-stoppers, roadblocks to listening. Good listening is attentive, uninterrupted, and genuinely responsive.

There is more to good listening. The Indian spiritual thinker, Jiddu Krishnamurti, put this point across well. He said: "There are two ways of listening: there is the mere listening to words, as you listen when you are not really interested, when you are not trying to fathom the depths of a problem; and there is the listening which catches the real significance of what is being said." In short, good listening is empathetic and self-reflexive. It involves the capacity to step out of one's own perspective, considering things from the other's point of view - "climb into his skin and walk around in it", as Harper Lee put it. Good listening enables an accurate understanding of what another person is thinking, feeling, experiencing, and meaning. None of this is possible if one remains self-centered, or believes that truth and goodness is

on one side alone. Good listening further presupposes that others have much to teach us, especially those who, in important aspects, are different from us.

Such good listening is especially needed in times of deep disagreement when we forget that there are as many views as there are people and delude ourselves into believing that the world is divided in two: us and them. We believe that only two views exist, and the one held by us is correct. This particularly crude form of binary thinking exacerbates conflicts, and deepens polarisation. A polarised world contains perfect conditions for people to stop listening to each other. It is precisely at such times that we need encouragement to start listening, so that we can broaden the horizon of our experience, to break the horrible habit of dismissing differences. Listening helps reveal hidden commonalities that bolster cooperation. It dispels mistaken assumptions. It brings greater acceptance. In such deeply divided times, should it not be the duty of democratic governments to encourage people to de-escalate bitterness and discord and begin listening to one another?

Listening to many

The government has made a good beginning by listening to a few. Since good democratic governments strive to be inclusive, to win the trust of all, they must listen to the many, become bahushruta. Deliberative democrats often emphasise the importance of good arguments and wish the best argument to determine its decisions. But can we ever know 'the best argument' if we haven't listened to all of them? Unless we ensure that, as far as possible, all points of view have indeed been taken into account? This inclusion is impossible without listening to voices that may have been repressed before, voices of the powerless and the vulnerable.

A continuing conversation between governments and citizens and among citizens themselves is crucial in a democracy. But good conversations presuppose good habits of listening. Governments must take seriously their duty to be not only sushruta, but bahushruta. Citizens too must take more responsibility for cultivating these public virtues.

Rajeev Bhargava is Professor, CSDS, Delhi

Inequality of another kind

Why the right to Internet access and digital literacy should be recognised as a right in itself



Recently, in Faheema Shirin v. State of Kerala, the Kerala High Court declared the right to Internet access as a fundamental right forming a part of the right to privacy and the right to education under Article 21 of the Constitution. While this is a welcome move, it is important to recognise the right to Internet access as an independent right.

Digital inequality

Inequality is a concept that underpins most interventions focussed on social justice and development. It resembles the mythological serpent Hydra in Greek mythology - as the state attempts to deal with one aspect of inequality, many new aspects keep coming up.

In recent times, several government and private sector services have become digital. Some of them are only available online. This leads to a new kind of inequality, digital inequality, where social and economic backwardness is exacerbated due to information poverty, lack of infrastructure, and lack of digital literacy. According to the Deloitte report, 'Digital India: Unlocking the Trillion Dollar Opportunity', in mid-2016, digital literacy in India was less than 10%. We are moving to a global economy where knowledge of digital processes will transform the way in which people work, collaborate, consume information, and entertain themselves. This has been acknowledged in the Sustainable Development Goals as well as by the Indian government and has led to the Digital India mission. Offering services online has cost and efficiency benefits for the government and also allows citizens to bypass lower-level government bureaucracy. However, in the absence of Internet access and digital literacy enabling that access, there will be further exclusion of large parts of the population, exacerbating the already existing digital divide.

Moving governance and service delivery online without the requisite progress in Internet access and digital literacy also does not make economic sense. For instance, Common Service Centres, which operate in rural and remote locations, are physical facilities which help in delivering digital government services and informing communities about government initiatives. While the state may be saving resources by moving services online, it also has to spend resources since a large chunk of citizens cannot access these services. The government has acknowledged this and has initiated certain mea-

sures in this regard. The Bharat Net programme, aiming to have an optical fibre network in all gram panchayats, is to act as the infrastructural backbone for having Internet access all across the country. However, the project has consistently missed all its deadlines while the costs involved have doubled. Similarly, the National Digital Literacy Mission has barely touched 1.67% of the population and has been struggling for funds. This is particularly worrying because Internet access and digital literacy are dependent on each other, and creation of digital infrastructure must go hand in hand with the creation of digital skills.

The importance of digital literacy

Internet access and digital literacy have implications beyond access to government services. Digital literacy allows people to access information and services, collaborate, and navigate socio-cultural networks. In fact, the definition of literacy today must include the ability to access and act upon resources and information found online. While the Kerala High Court judgment acknowledges the role of the right to access Internet in accessing other fundamental rights, it is imperative that the right to Internet access and digital literacy be recognised as a right in itself. In this framework the state would have (i) a positive obligation to create infrastructure for a minimum standard and quality of Internet access as well as capacity-building measures which would allow all citizens to be digitally literate and (ii) a negative obligation prohibiting it from engaging in conduct that impedes, obstructs or violates such a right. Recognising the right to internet access and digital literacy will also make it easier to demand accountability from the state, as well as encourage the legislature and the executive to take a more proactive role in furthering this right. The courts have always interpreted Article 21 as a broad spectrum of rights considered incidental and/or integral to the right to life.

A right to Internet access would also further provisions given under Articles 38(2) and 39 of the Constitution. It has now become settled judicial practice to read fundamental rights along with directive principles with a view to defining the scope and ambit of the former. We are living in an 'information society'. Unequal access to the Internet creates and reproduces socio-economic exclusions. It is important to recognise the right to Internet access and digital literacy to alleviate this situation, and allow citizens increased access to information, services, and the creation of better livelihood opportunities.

Sumeesh Srivastava is a programme manager at Nyayaa, an initiative of the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy

Why seek Western validation?

For many Western film critics, Indian cinema is often synonymous with Hindi cinema

KUNAL RAY

Recently, The Guardian released its list of 100 best films of the 21st century. The only Indian (read Hindi) film in the list is Anurag Kashyap's Gangs of Waspeyypur. This mention attracted considerable attention in the Indian media. While some sections of the media praised the film, a few wondered if it is really that good.

Individual preferences

It should be noted that most lists are arbitrary and often reflect the preferences of the individuals who prepare them. We concur with some choices and disagree with others. But the veneration of the film because of its mention in the list points to a larger, deep-seated malaise in India: the need for Western validation.

There is also another problem with such lists. It is that for many Western film critics, Indian cinema doesn't exist beyond Hindi cinema. Hindi cinema has a wider reach, clout and visibility. Hindi mainstream actors also have a pan-Indian presence. Some of them regularly act in non-Hindi films. Hindi cinema is also widely written about in popular media and academia. Other film cultures and industries in India do not enjoy this exposure. And so, in the larger Western imagination, Hindi cinema is synonymous with Indian cinema or representative of it. I wonder if parts of the West even know about the other film cultures that thrive in India and the brilliant films that have been made in non-Hindi film industries of India, which are as good as, if not better than, Gangs of Waspeyypur.

This is not to say that Gangs of Waspeyypur is not a good film. It is not a mainstream Bollywood film. Kashyap decentres the gangster-mafia conversation beyond Mumbai and throws us into a world of characters who don't look, feel, or talk like their counterparts in other Hindi mafia-gangster films. I would say that Kashyap retains many formulaic Bollywood conventions of the genre with

his use of music, violence, sex, and a love story, but situates these conventions in a milieu that is foreign to mainstream Hindi cinema audiences. He uses local sounds, actors and dialects. The lead characters are as vulnerable as their opponents. There are no hero characters in the film. He also exposes the unholy nexus between politics and unorganised crime and highlights issues of caste. Kashyap renders formula in a non-formulaic way. The first part of Gangs of Waspeyypur is captivating indeed, but the second part falters in some ways.

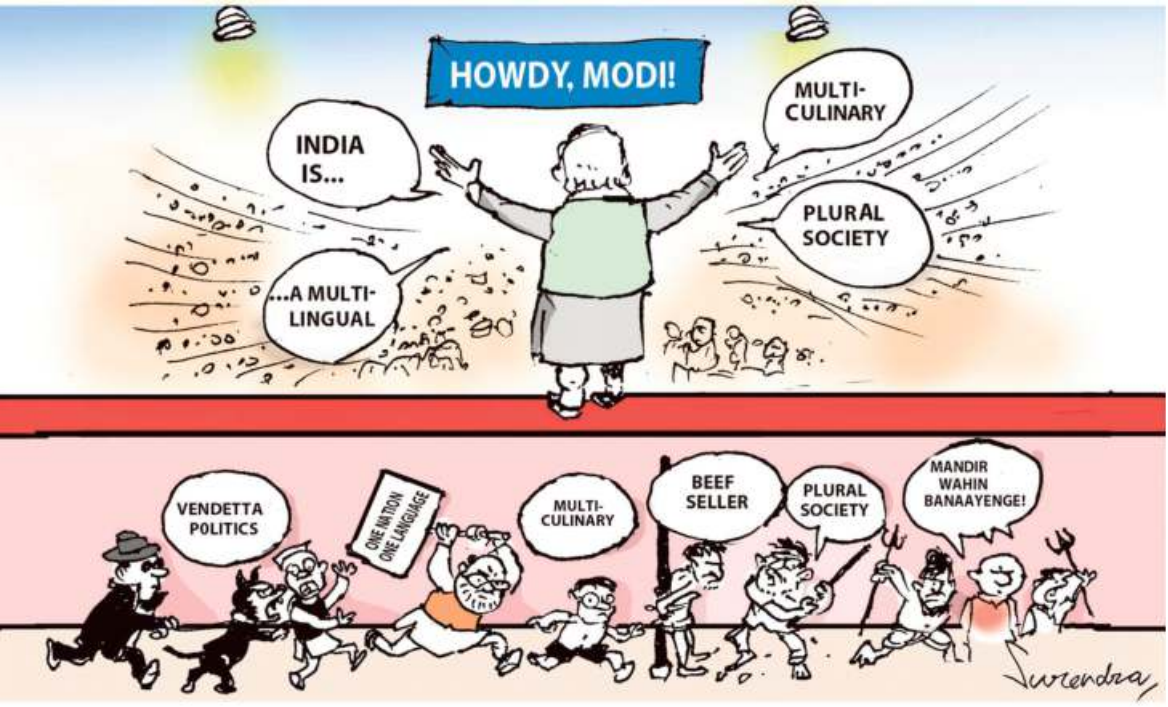
Other contenders

Having said that, is it really the best Indian film of the 21st century? I don't think so. For that spot, there are many contenders from non-Hindi film cultures of India. Lijo Jose Pellissery's Malayalam crime drama, Angamaly Diaries, is a remarkable film. It shows how local youth are

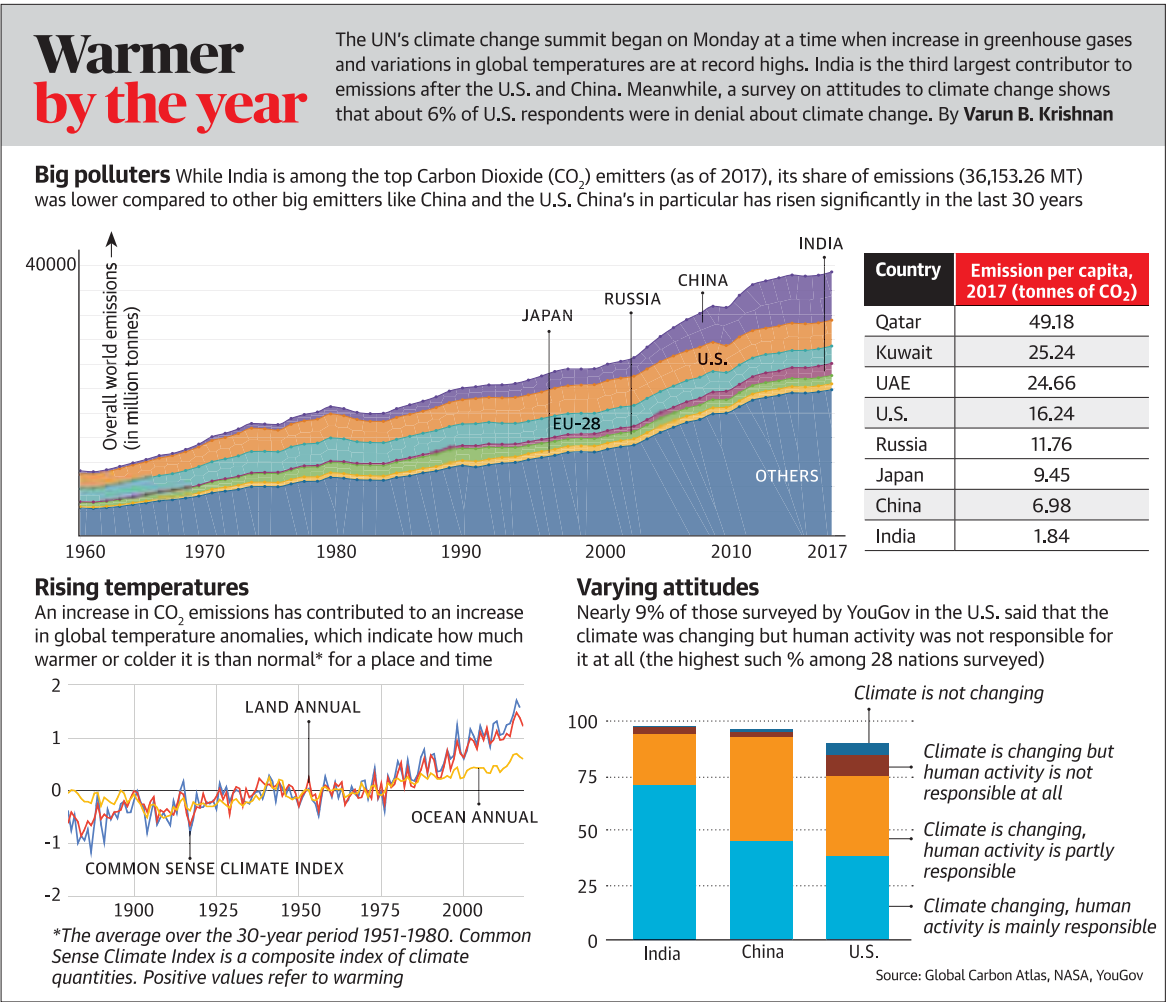
drawn to crime and eventually form a gang. It is also a commentary on the aspirations and needs of a social class. Rajeev Ravi's Kammatipaadam explores similar territory. Vetrimaaran's films in Tamil are no less. Karthik Subbaraj made Jigarthanda, an ode to gangsters. Ameer Sultan's Paruthiveeran gave me the chills. What about Gurrinder Singh's Punjabi films Anhe Ghore Da Daan and the intensely lyrical Chauthi Koot? Raam Reddy made the genre-bending Kannada film, Thithi. In Marathi, Nagraj Manjule made Fandry, Chaitanya Tamhane made Court, Avinash Arun made Killa. Even within the Hindi film fold, Nandita Das debuted with a searing commentary on the 2002 Gujarat riots, Firaag. There are others like Masaan and Newton with inventive storytelling. Rajat Kapoor made the perplexing Ankhon Dekhi which deserved more discussion.

These show that we ought to celebrate and recognise India's best cinema for reasons that are entirely our own, not because some of these films are appreciated by the West.

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DATA POINT



The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 24, 1969

In search of a Constitution

(From an Editorial)

While the Pakistan Press has been writing sarcastically about the Congress Party crisis in India and prophesying the political collapse of this country, the constitutional debate in Pakistan continues unabated. President Yahya Khan has called for the preparation of electoral rolls on the basis of adult franchise, thus conceding a major popular demand. It is also certain that the shape of the future constitution will be federal and that the Centre will retain powers over defence, external relations and finance. But the hottest point of the debate relates to the "one unit" system which was introduced in the 1956 Constitution. According to that scheme, the former provinces of West Pakistan were merged into a single unit so that only two provincial legislatures remained, one for the West and one for the East. The limited powers which these provincial legislatures enjoyed disappeared with the introduction of Ayub Khan's 1962 Constitution and even the Central Legislature was reduced to a debating society with the Cabinet responsible to the President rather than to the legislature.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 24, 1919.

The Imperial Council.

(From an Editorial)

The rejection of the Hon'ble Mr. B.N. Sarma's resolution in the Imperial Legislative Council urging that an expert committee of officials and non-officials be appointed to consider the question of the establishment of a State Bank for India is bound to be viewed with some misgivings in the country. It is now certain that we have been driven by force of circumstances to resort to some sort of a central bank for the whole country, not merely to secure the economies resulting from the centralisation of reserves, but also to see that our currency and exchange are placed on a more stable and sounder basis. There are many problems of great intricacy involved in the establishment of such a bank. Some of these relate to the nature of the control that should be exercised over it; some others are connected with the distribution of the resources of the bank among the various provincial branches so that one province might not unduly monopolise the funds of the bank to the detriment of the other.



FROM PAGE ONE

## Shah moots one card for all utilities

He cited the example of the government's flagship 'Ujjwala' scheme of providing free LPG connections to poor families, saying it has been successful as the scheme was prepared on the basis of the 2011 census data.

"By 2022, there will not be a family which will not have a gas connection," he said.

**Haryana surges ahead**  
Mr. Shah also said the 2011 Census reflected the poor sex ratio in some States. That's why the programme of 'Beta Bachao, Beti Padhao' was launched.

"Under this scheme, the

Haryana government has done so much work in the last five years that the State's sex ratio is now among the best in the country," he said.

He said India's population is 17.5% of the world's, while the geographical area is just 2.4%.

"So, naturally, India has limited natural resources in comparison to the population," he said.

"Therefore, to fill up this gap of inequality, we will have to work hard," he added.

He said the census would help in demarcating boundaries of municipal wards and the Assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies.

## Rawat hints at action as Pak. revives Balakot camp

As the temperature kept falling and snow came in, they started coming into the areas that had less snowfall, he added.

"As of now, we have taken adequate measures; we have pushed in more troops, we have increased deployment along the LoC [Line of Control] to ensure that infiltration is curbed to the maximum extent," he said.

Terrorists, he said, were trying to creating a façade as if there was clampdown in the Kashmir Valley, but normal activities were on. The restrictions would be eased gradually, Gen. Rawat said.

"Communication breakdown is happening between the handlers of terrorists operating from Pakistan and

terrorists in the Valley. Otherwise, communication is happening; the lines are through. Communication breakdown is not happening between people-to-people," he said.

The shutters of shops in J&K were down but they were operating from the rear. Terrorists were threatening the shopkeepers because they wanted to show everybody outside that there was a clampdown.

Asked about radical Islamic terrorism, Gen. Rawat said: "I think it is important that we have preachers who convey the correct meaning of Islam."

Gen. Rawat was in the OTA to inaugurate the Young Leaders Training Wing.

## SC pulls up Kerala official on Maradu

"It appears that the authorities, rather than preventing the violations, are trying to mobilise the public opinion and time has come to hold them responsible for their active connivance in such activities of degrading the environment and violation of the coastal zone regulations, etc," the Supreme Court order said.

**Concrete plan needed**  
The court observed in its order that it was imperative for Kerala to have concrete plan to prevent violations in its coastal zones and punish violators.

The court ordered the Chief Secretary to place on record by September 27 the action proposed against all existing violators. The State has to also place on record the number of existing constructions which are in violation of the coastal zone regulations.

The Bench is hearing suo

motu the lack of action displayed on the part of the State to implement the May 8 order to demolish, illegal high-rise apartment blocks built in violation of coastal zone regulations at Maradu.

Justice Mishra told Mr. Jose, represented by senior advocate Harish Salve, that "you are in great difficulty... We can hold you personally liable if there are any".

Referring to the current affidavit filed by Mr. Jose, Justice Mishra observed orally "you have not given even a semblance of assurance".

Justice Mishra said the Chief Secretary is facing a "tough court", one which is braving critical articles published almost everyday about its decision to demolish the Maradu buildings.

The judge remarked orally that it could even take action against the errant officials under the Indian Penal Code.

## Renewable energy target to be more than doubled

The Prime Minister highlighted his call from banning single-use plastics, the International Solar Alliance, an Indian-led initiative, and that India had provided 160 million families with cooking gas connections.

**New initiatives**  
He also announced two international initiatives. First, a platform with Sweden and other countries, for governments and the private sector to work together to develop low carbon pathways for industry.

Second, a Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. This initiative was approved by the Union Cabinet last month and ₹480 crore has been allocated for technical assistance and projects.

The U.K., Australia and island nations such as Fiji and the Maldives will be part of this coalition.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres had asked leaders to come with "concrete plans" rather than "beautiful speeches", a message he emphasised at the start of the summit.

Mr. Modi's early slot, after New Zealand Prime Minister Jacina Ardern and Hilda Heine, the President of the Marshall Islands, was a recognition of India's leadership in climate action, according to India's UN envoy Syed Akbaruddin, who briefed the media a few days ago on the summit.

**U.S. pulls out**  
The U.S., Brazil, and South Africa are among countries that will not be speaking at the summit.

U.S. President Donald Trump and Vice-President Mike Pence briefly attended the summit and listened to several speeches including Mr. Modi's.

# Will BJP manage to prevail over Shiv Sena in seat-sharing?

Uddhav Thackeray's party is pushing for an equal share in the division

**NISTULA HEBBAR**  
NEW DELHI  
Just a day after the Election Commission announced the Assembly election schedule for Maharashtra and Haryana on September 21, BJP president Amit Shah was expected to meet Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray in Mumbai and announce a seat-sharing arrangement between the parties. That did not happen.

Instead, Mr. Shah addressed a gathering on Article 370 and made his way back to Delhi.

Those in the know said the lack of an announcement had more to do with the fact that it is now the *Pitrapaksh* or *Shraadh* period of the Hindu calendar, when no new ventures are undertaken. That period is set to end on September 28, and Mr. Shah is visiting Mumbai on September 26 again. It is expected that the nitty-gritty



of the alliance will be tied up then.

The Shiv Sena, along with the Shiromani Akali Dal in Punjab, is one of the oldest alliances of the BJP. The Sena had, under its founder, Bala-saheb Thackeray, held the position of "big brother" in the alliance in Maharashtra, and it had fought the larger number of the seats of the two parties in the Assembly elections since 1995.

The scene changed after the ascendancy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014, with the BJP asking the Sena to understand the changed political realities and cede ground. The two parted ways over this issue before the 2014 Assembly election, and the BJP put up a good performance winning 122 seats.

With the outside support of the Nationalist Congress Party, it formed a government under Chief Minister

Devendra Fadnavis. The Sena soon realised it needed the BJP, more to capture the subsequent local body election in the richest Corporation in the country – the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation. The alliance, at the State, local and national levels was back on, but the question of a larger share of Assembly seats remains.

The BJP has reportedly offered the Sena 126 seats, and kept 162 for itself, but the latter is pushing for an equal number of seats. The BJP is clear-eyed enough to see that its own areas of "influence" extends to 170 seats, not all likely to be bagged by it and is determined to labour on with talks.

If the BJP manages to prevail on the Sena, it will be a demonstration of just how a national party can prevail over a regional one, given the time and chance.

## Cong. will have 4 Deputy CMs: Hooda

This will not be included in the party manifesto, says former Haryana CM

**VIKAS VASUDEVA**  
CHANDIGARH  
Ahead of the Assembly election in Haryana, Congress leader and former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda has said that the Congress, on assuming power, will have four deputy chief ministers, though it will not be part of the party's manifesto.

"When the Congress forms the next government, we will have four deputy chief ministers, to give representation to different communities, be it Backward Class, Scheduled Caste, Brahmin or Jat. Whoever becomes the Chief Minister, four members of communi-



ties other than that of the Chief Minister will be made deputy chief ministers," Mr. Hooda told *The Hindu*.

"The manifesto is for the government, what the government will deliver... while the decision regarding appointment of deputy chief ministers is a political decision, which would be taken by the party," he said.

"Hence, this would not be a part of the manifesto but we will surely do it when we form the next government," he added.

The Congress's manifesto committee has sought suggestions from its leaders and workers till September 25. The committee, headed by senior party leader Kiran Chaudary, will on September 27.

Mr. Hooda said all the pro-

mises made over a series of rallies by him, which include implementing the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission, increasing old age pension, providing electricity at half the price, and either giving jobs or an unemployment allowance of ₹10,000 a month to youth, would be incorporated in the party manifesto.

In 2005, Chander Mohan, a four-time Congress MLA, became the Deputy Chief Minister in the Bhupinder Singh Hooda-led Congress government.

Haryana goes to polls for the 90-member House on October 21. The votes will be counted on October 24.

## Healthy life a basic right, PM tells UN meet

India ready to share experience in providing affordable healthcare with all developing nations

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW YORK  
India's experience and capabilities in providing affordable healthcare is available for use to all developing countries, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the first-ever high-level meeting on universal health coverage in New York on Monday, underscoring that a healthy life is the right of every person.

"The onus for this is on our government to make every possible effort to ensure this," Mr. Modi said at the meeting, which will launch new efforts to provide access for all to affordable, inclusive and resilient health systems.

Mr. Modi said India's efforts on affordable healthcare were not limited to just

its own boundaries.

"We have helped to provide access to affordable healthcare by way of telemedicine to several other countries especially African countries and we will continue to do so. Our experience and our capabilities are available for use to all developing countries," he said.

Mr. Modi began his engagements at the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly by addressing the Climate Action Summit hosted by Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Monday in the General Assembly Hall.

This was followed by his speech at the Universal Health Coverage meeting.

Mr. Modi told the world leaders and Ministers at the



summit that global welfare begins with people's welfare, and health was an important component of it and added that India had taken a holistic approach towards the health sector.

He outlined the four main pillars of healthcare that India focused on.

"The first pillar is preventive healthcare. We have laid special emphasis on yoga, Ayurveda and fitness," he said.

The second pillar for India

is affordable healthcare and under this the government has rolled out the world's largest health insurance scheme – Ayushman Bharat. Under this scheme, 500 million poor people have been given the facility of free treatment worth up to ₹500,000 every year.

For India, the third pillar is improvements on the supply side and the government has taken several "historic steps" for quality medical education and medical infrastructure development.

Highlighting the fourth pillar of "mission mode intervention", Mr. Modi said if mothers and children are healthy, this will lay the foundation for a healthy society.

## Fissures in Bihar's 'grand alliance'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
PATNA  
With the announcement of by-polls for five Assembly seats and one Lok Sabha seat in Bihar, scheduled for October 21, allies in the *mahagathbandhan* (grand alliance) on Monday began staking their claim to the seats.

Alliance partner Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) led by Jitan Ram Manjhi staked claim over the Nathnagar seat in Bhagalpur. Rashtriya Janata Dal leaders said their party would contest in four seats.

The Congress, another ally, said all allies should accept fewer numbers of seats and work for the victory of the 'grand alliance.'

## Sonia, Manmohan visit Chidambaram

The former Minister has been lodged at Tihar jail over corruption charges

**SANDEEP PHUKAN**  
NEW DELHI  
Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who along with Congress president Sonia Gandhi visited former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram in Tihar jail on Monday, said the whole system would collapse if Ministers were penalised for approving mere recommendations.

Accompanied by Mr. Chidambaram's son and Congress Lok Sabha member Karti Chidambaram, the visit is meant to signal that the Congress is ready to politically take on the Narendra Modi-led government over corruption charges filed against party leaders.

Dr. Singh, in a statement, said, "No decision can be taken by any single person. All decisions are collective, recorded in files... Minister



Chidambaram approved the unanimous recommendation. The former Prime Minister said, "The whole system will collapse if a Minister is liable for approving merely a recommendation."

For Ms. Gandhi, after 1978 when former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was lodged in Tihar jail, Monday's visit

was only the second time when she visited the jail.

Mr. Chidambaram has been in jail under judicial custody since September 5, facing corruption charges in the INX Media case.

He was arrested on August 21 and initially kept at the Central Bureau of Investigation headquarters.

The Congress has termed the charges against the former Finance Minister a "paramount example of political vendetta."

"Ms. Gandhi has always been supporting my father. She reiterated that to him personally," Mr. Karti told *The Hindu* after the meeting and added, "My father and my family are grateful to Ms. Gandhi and Dr. Singh for visiting and extending their support to him. It is a big boost to us."

"I have asked my family to tweet on my behalf the following: I am honoured that Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Dr. Manmohan Singh called on me today. As long as the @INCIndia party is strong and brave, I will also be strong and brave," Mr. Chidambaram's official handle tweeted after his meeting.

## RSS think tank comes out with survey on women

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI  
There appears to be a crisis in the rate at which women are dropping out of education and schools, according to a report by a Pune-based RSS-linked think tank, Drishti Stree Adhyayan Prabhodhan Kendra.

The organisation has recommended that the Union and the State governments, along with NGOs, focus on programmes to reduce the dropout rate in general and among the Scheduled Caste category at the primary and middle levels in particular.

The report, based on over two years of research (between 2017 and 2018), was conducted across 29 States, five Union Territories and 465 districts, 70 of them in border areas. It will be released by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Tuesday. More

than 43,255 women above 18 years of age were interviewed for the survey.

Spiritually inclined women having no family and source of income are the happiest in the country, said the survey though only 6,000 claimed to be into spirituality in a big way.

In terms of religion, the highest percentage of employment was among Christian women, followed by Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims and Jains. The percentage of employment was the lowest among Sikh women, the survey says.

In terms of caste, it says, the employment rate is highest among women from the Scheduled Tribes, and the lowest in the general caste. Self-employment is also taken into consideration while counting women who are employed.



**Exercising their right:** Voters waiting in queue to cast their votes at a polling station in Agartala on Monday. •PTI

## Peaceful polling in four Assembly seats

Turnout dips in rain-hit Hamirpur

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI  
Polling in the byelections to four Assembly seats – one each in Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Tripura and Kerala – on Monday saw voter turnouts ranging from about 51% to 70%.

In the Hamirpur constituency in Bundelkhand, Uttar Pradesh, a low turnout of 51% was recorded with incessant rain playing spoilsport.

The byelection was necessitated after the incumbent BJP MLA, Ashok Kumar Singh Chandel, along with nine associates, was sentenced to life for his involvement in the murder of five people of a political rival's family in 1997.

sympathy factor, the BJP has fielded Mandavi's wife Ojaswi, to take on former Congress MLA Devti Karma, wife of former Leader of the Opposition Mahendra Karma who was also killed by Maoists in 2013.

**70% in Badharghat**  
The byelection to the Badharghat Assembly seat in Agartala passed off peacefully, recording a turnout of 70%.

The seat fell vacant after the death of six-time MLA and former minister Dilip Sarkar.

Elections officials said polling was free and fair though the opposition Congress and CPI(M) alleged threats and intimidation by supporters of ruling BJP.

BJP candidate Mimi Majumder denied the allegations and accused Congress candidate Tapan Chandra Das of trying to make an unauthorised entry in a polling station.

**IED defused**  
The Dantewada byelection in Chhattisgarh saw a provisional turnout of 60% until 7 p.m.

The contest became necessary after the death of BJP MLA Bhima Mandavi in a Maoist attack in April, two days before the Lok Sabha election.

An improvised explosive device (IED) was defused on a road in Katekalyan block of the district, said Deputy Inspector General of Police (Anti-Naxal Operations) P. Sundarraaj.

Hoping to cash in on the







ELSEWHERE



**Israeli President invites leaders to break deadlock**

JERUSALEM  
Israel's President Reuven Rivlin invited the two main victors — Benjamin Netanyahu and Benny Gantz — from the country's neck-and-neck election to meet on Monday, seeking to break a deadlock that has complicated his task of trying to choose the country's next Prime Minister. **AP**

**Trial opens in France over weight loss pill deaths**

PARIS  
France's medicines watchdog and pharma firm Servier went on trial on fraud and negligence charges on Monday over the use of a diabetes pill prescribed for weight loss. At least 500 people are thought to have died in France after taking the drug Mediator in a health scandal that was the subject of a 2016 French movie called *150 Milligrams*. **AFP**

# 'Not worried about impeachment'

U.S. President says 'it's just a Democrat witch hunt'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
UNITED NATIONS  
President Donald Trump on Monday dismissed the threat of impeachment over allegations that he tried to pressure Ukraine's leader into investigating his 2020 election rival Joe Biden.

Asked if he was taking the threat from some Democrats seriously, Mr. Trump answered: "Not at all seriously."

U.S. media reports revealed that an intelligence community whistleblower had filed a report after becoming alarmed at Mr. Trump's alleged attempt to



pressure Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in a phone call.

Mr. Trump has confirmed that he discussed what he says was corruption by Mr. Biden's family during the call

# 40 Afghan civilians killed in raid near wedding party

House used by the Taliban was located next to the bride's home

REUTERS  
HELMAND/KABUL  
At least 40 civilians attending a wedding party were killed by explosions and gunfire during a raid by U.S.-backed Afghan government forces on an Islamist militant hideout, officials in Helmand province said on Monday.

The raid, days after a U.S. drone strike aimed at militants hiding among farmers killed 32 pine nut harvesters, showed how civilians have borne the brunt of a war that has re-intensified since U.S.-Taliban peace talks collapsed two weeks ago.

Afghan officials said a house being used by the Taliban to train suicide bombers was located adjacent to the bride's home that came under fire during Sunday night's commando assault in the Musa Qala area of Helmand province.



Villagers carrying a body on a stretcher outside a hospital in Lashkar Gah, Afghanistan, on Monday. **AFP**

On Monday, 30-year-old Musa Qala resident Mohammad Salim carried bodies of cousins and relatives to a burial ground from a house decorated for his sister-in-law's wedding.

Mr. Salim and two senior provincial government officials said 40 people, including 12 children, were killed at the wedding venue when Afghan forces swooped on the

house used by Taliban and Al-Qaeda militants to train suicide bombers. "We were going to the bride's house for the henna ceremony, some of us were outside and some inside, (when) suddenly the battle began... We told the security forces that we were not members of the Taliban," Mr. Salim said.

"But both sides ended up killing civilians," he said.

# Xi may visit Nepal after Huawei deal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI  
Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to visit Nepal in October, according to sources. The possible visit comes days after Nepal's Chaudhary Group (CG) signed a deal with Chinese telecom major Huawei for 5G-ready network in the Himalayan country.

The tie-up comes in the backdrop of continued discussion in India over whether to let Huawei enter into 5G domain in view of security concerns.

# Trump calls Modi's statement on Pak. terror 'very aggressive'

U.S. President reiterates offer to mediate

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN  
NEW YORK

U.S. President Donald Trump labelled as "very aggressive" a statement from Prime Minister Modi (on Pakistan's role in terror) at the 'Howdy, Modi!' event at Houston on Sunday. Mr. Trump also said he did not realise the statement would be made and said it was well received in the room.

"You have two big countries and they are warring countries, and they've been fighting. I heard a very aggressive statement yesterday, not to say that I was there. I didn't know I was going to hear that statement...but I was sitting there, I heard a very aggressive statement yesterday, from India, from the Prime Minister, and I will say it was very well received within room... that was a big room 59,000 people. But it was a very aggressive statement," Mr. Trump said.

Mr. Trump's comments were made to the press, which he addressed along with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan prior to their bilateral meeting. Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Ambassador to the United States Asad Majeed Khan were also present.

**Mediation role**  
Mr. Trump also repeated his offer to mediate, saying he had a good relationship with both leaders and was "ready, willing and able" to mediate on the issue.

"I also have a very good relationship with India. I



U.S. President Donald Trump with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan in New York. **NYT**

# 'Will raise Kashmir issue at UN'

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW YORK

Vowing to take up what he called his "worries" about "Hindu supremacy" in India and the situation in Kashmir post-revocation of Article 370 with leaders at the United Nations General Assembly, Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan said here that he wanted a "reset in ties" with India, but had been rebuffed. In his first reaction to the mega-rally by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Trump on Sunday, Mr. Khan said the Modi government was "carrying out an RSS agenda" against Pakistan.

"After the Pulwama attack, I had said [to the Indian government], please give us any indication a Pakistani was involved. India

bombed us instead [Balakot strikes]," Mr. Khan said at the Council of Foreign Relations.

**Links to terrorism**  
While he didn't react directly to PM Modi's comments on Pakistan's links to terrorism in the 9/11 attacks and 26/11 attacks, Mr. Khan said he disagreed with President Trump's assertion that India and the U.S. would together combat "radical Islamic terrorism". "There is only one Islam, not moderate or radical," he said, indicating that he had watched the rally of Indian-Americans at Houston's NRG centre.

Mr. Khan made the comments ahead of his bilateral meeting with President Trump in New York, his first since the talks with Taliban

were called off. He admitted that he had only learned of the U.S. decision to cancel a possible deal with the Taliban only through Mr. Trump's tweet, and hoped the talks could be restarted. Both PM Modi and PM Khan will address the UN General Assembly on Friday.

Significantly, the Pakistani Prime Minister did not deny the presence of terrorists in Pakistan, and even suggested that Al-Qaeda chief Osama Bin Laden had links with Pakistan Army.

"I will say, the Pakistan Army trained al-Qaeda before 9/11, so there were always going to be links. Many in the Army didn't agree with the policy change post 9/11, when the same people we had trained were called terrorists," Mr. Khan said.

# Russia formally accepts 2015 Paris climate accord

It first signed the deal in April 2016

REUTERS  
MOSCOW  
Russia said it would implement the 2015 Paris Agreement to fight climate change after Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev on Monday approved a government resolution signifying Moscow's final acceptance of the deal.

The same resolution said Russia would not technically ratify the accord however due to a legal nuance. Mr. Medvedev said Moscow would adapt the accord to existing legal norms. It was unclear what, if any, the legal implications of failing to technically ratify the pact were.

Russia is the world's fourth largest emitter of greenhouse gases and the

biggest emitter not to have ratified the landmark global climate deal.

In Monday's government resolution, Russia said it did not need to ratify the agreement because Moscow had already undertaken to honour its commitments when it signed the deal in April 2016.

Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Gordeyev said it was important for Russia to be part of the Paris accord so that it had a voice when it came to deciding any new measures to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. "And any regulatory measures that are drawn up will have to take into consideration our national interests as much as possible," he said.

# GoT and Fleabag take top prizes at the Emmys

Billy Porter wins best lead actor in a drama while *Chernobyl* took home a total of 10 awards

JOHN KOBLIN  
LOS ANGELES  
HBO's *Game of Thrones* made television history at the 71st Primetime Emmy Awards on Sunday, winning for best drama series. The sprawling fantasy series, which had its finale in May after eight seasons of blood and intrigue, won 12 Emmys for its swan-song season, adding to its record total for the most wins of any television drama ever.

The night was also huge for Amazon, which won the best comedy award, thanks to *Fleabag*, a series that grew out of a 2014 one-woman show by its creator, Phoebe Waller-Bridge.

Ms. Waller-Bridge won three Emmys on the night, including for best actress in a



Glittering gala: (Left to right) Andrew Scott, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Sian Clifford and Brett Gelman in Los Angeles. **AFP**

comedy, a win that came as an upset. The much-decorated Julia Louis-Dreyfus, the star of *Veep*, failed to win that award for the first time in the show's seven seasons. Ms. Waller-Bridge also won in the category of best writing for a comedy series.

She has said that the show's second season would be its last — and seemed to be sticking with her decision to end it. "To be honest, this feels like the most beautiful way to say goodbye," she said.

As if to emphasise Ama-

zon's strong performance, even Alexa made an appearance, announcing the name of the nominees for best actress in a comedy as part of a bit put on by Stephen Colbert and Jimmy Kimmel, who were presenters.

Amazon's *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, won two awards, with Alex Borstein winning for best supporting actress and Tony Shalhoub taking the prize for best supporting actor.

**HBO steals the show**  
In keeping with Emmy tradition, HBO had a strong night overall, taking three of the top series awards, including a victory for a frequent winner, *Last Week Tonight With John Oliver*, as the year's best talk show. The network

also won in the category of best limited series for *Chernobyl*, which won 10 awards altogether.

HBO took the crown this year, earning 34 Emmy wins compared to Netflix's 27.

For his work on *Game of Thrones*, Peter Dinklage won — for the fourth time — the award for best supporting actor in a drama.

Billy Porter, one of the stars of FX's New York City 1980s ballroom-scene drama, *Pose*, won best actor in a drama.

It was the first time an openly gay black actor had won in the category.

Jodie Comer, a star of BBC America's *Killing Eve*, won for best actress in a drama. In doing so, she bested her castmate Sandra Oh. **NY TIMES**

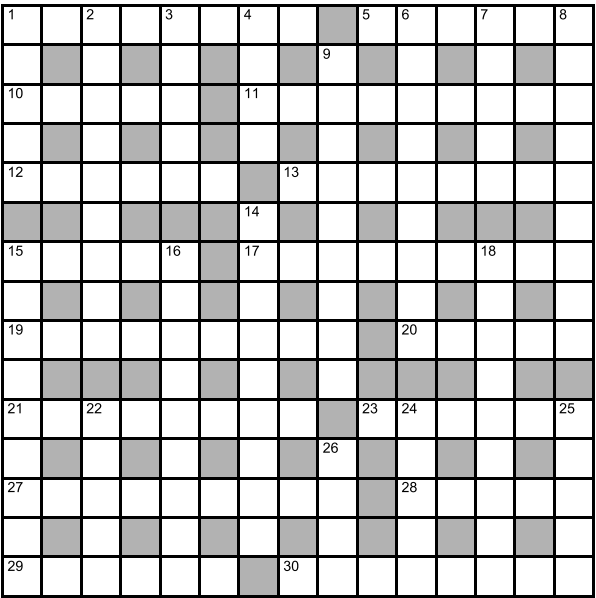
# 20 killed in protests in Indonesia

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
JAKARTA  
At least 20 people were killed and dozens more injured as fresh unrest erupted in Indonesia's restive Papua region on Monday, with some victims burned to death in buildings set ablaze by protesters, authorities said.

Papua, on the western half of New Guinea island, has been gripped by weeks of violent protests fuelled by anger over racism, as well as fresh calls for self-rule in the impoverished territory.

"Most of them died in a fire," said Papua military spokesman Eko Daryanto. "The death toll could go up because many were trapped in burning kiosks."

# THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12738



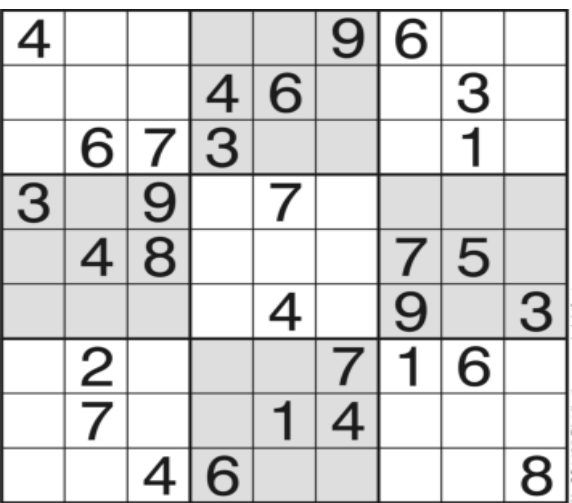
## ACROSS

- 1 Madly hire — taking on board sailor and pirate (8)
- 5 Nice is wrongly represented in Supreme Court ... it is picturesque (6)
- 10 Servant maid's initial attraction (5)
- 11 Accuracy of composition by Numero Uno on return (9)

(set by Incognito)

- 12 Put an end to a kind of whiskey (6)
- 13 Appropriate English spa town (not hot!) (8)
- 15 Strand engineer with a child (5)
- 17 Leave the decision to Penny (4,1,4)
- 19 Briefly record confusion in quadrilateral (9)
- 20 Edit and finish by morning (5)
- 21 I boarded hybrid car, catamaran and plane (8)
- 23 Fit weapons to a German aircraft-carrier, initially, in fleet (6)
- 27 Indian musical instrument's note is pure (9)
- 28 Banned material that may be found next to trunk (5)
- 29 He wears nothing except his birthday suit, perhaps, around commencement of dance after noon (6)
- 30 State: "A Republican state" (8)
- DOWN**
- 1 Sells, I hear, wines (5)
- 2 RAF CO A. Jon's flying "The Maid of Orleans" (4,2,3)
- 3 Wag company's little microphone (5)
- 4 Spot English Bond, for example (4)
- 6 Mince tail and poach to produce sausage (9)
- 7 A person from Kerala has a note from Nigeria (5)
- 8 Anxious ... CERN should be covered by cone before commencement of de-ionization (9)
- 9 Blue Force, indeed (9)
- 14 Spreading grease/fat results in articulation difficulties (5,4)
- 15 Wild pubs supported by Scotsman (9)
- 16 Spaces tall people need? Captain's cabins (9)
- 18 Musical tops for surgeons (9)
- 22 Drive around and wandered (5)
- 24 Food secreted in Samurai tatami (5)
- 25 Sailor on Yankee ship shows deep chasm (5)
- 26 RIP ... a mourner may shed this (4)

# SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12737								
C	A	A	A	B	D			
C	R	I	B	R	E	V	E	A
E	E	G	E	R	S	R		
A	M	E	L	I	A	T	I	N
A	M	E	L	I	A	T	I	N
S	T	R	A	F	I	N	G	
E	D							
O	S	S	I	C	L	E		
E	A	C						
S	T	R	A	T	I	N	G	
B								
B								
N	C	G	O	U	O	P		
K	A	N	G	A	R	O	S	
E	S	N	E	A	D			

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku								
3	9	1	7	6	4	8	2	5
8	7	2	9	3	5	6	1	4
4	6	5	2	1	8	9	7	3
7	8	4	1	2	9	3	5	6
6	1	9	8	5	3	7	4	2
5	2	3	6	4	7	1	8	9
1	4	7	3	9	2	5	6	8
2	3	8	5	7	6	4	9	1
9	5	6	4	8	1	2	3	7

# FAITH

## A lesson for Garuda

In Srimad Bhagavatam, a yogiswara named Hari tells king Nimi about the characteristics of bhagavatas, said P.T. Seshadri in a discourse. Hari says that a bhagavatha will not think of a devotee as inferior because of his place of residence. Pillai Lokachariar, in his Srivachana Bhushanam, mentions an incident in the life of Vainateya (Garuda) as an example of what happens to those who think poorly of a devotee who does not reside in a pilgrim centre. While Pillai Lokachariar briefly mentions the episode, Manavala Mamunigal, in his commentary, elaborated on the story. The story is about a lady named Sandili who was devoted to Vishnu. Her story is found in the Mahabharata.

Galava was the sishya of Viswamitra. When the period of study was over, Galava asked the sage what he wanted as guru dakshina. Viswamitra said that he wanted nothing, but when Galava insisted, the sage lost his temper and said, "Get me 800 white horses. Every one of them must have one black ear." Garuda offered to help Galava find such horses. He carried Galava and they went to all the worlds looking for such horses. But they did not find any.

Then they rested in the Rishabh hills. In those hills lived a devotee of the Lord, named Sandili. Garuda was very impressed with her knowledge and thought to himself that he should take Sandili to a sacred pilgrim centre. That was the proper place for her, not a remote hill, he thought. At once Garuda's wings fell off. Garuda realised what his sin was. He had felt that the place where Sandili resided was not good enough for her. He had forgotten that a place where a devotee lives becomes a sacred place. Because he had forgotten this, his wings had dropped off. He then asks Sandili to forgive him and she does. And Garuda regained his wings.



MARKET WATCH		
	23-09-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	39,090	2.83
US Dollar	70.94	0.00
Gold	38,690	0.33
Brent oil	64.22	-1.15

NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	410.95	30.25
Asian Paints	1802.75	131.75
Axis Bank	725.50	45.15
Bajaj Auto	2995.15	65.90
Bajaj Finserv	8297.75	604.10
Bajaj Finance	4023.75	321.55
Bharti Airtel	348.00	-8.40
BPCL	450.85	47.00
Britannia Ind	3053.65	186.65
Cipla	448.90	-14.40
Coal India	202.70	2.65
Dr Reddys Lab	2767.25	-70.55
Eicher Motors	19239.35	1379.15
GAIL (India)	141.30	6.60
Grasim Ind	759.30	-16.20
HCL Tech	2162.00	112.70
HDFC	1257.25	57.65
HDFC Bank	2820.35	-42.55
Hind Unilever	2039.75	70.00
Indiabulls HFL	437.70	9.30
ICICI Bank	446.30	28.80
IndusInd Bank	1511.55	91.95
Bharti Infratel	263.80	4.65
Infosys	764.35	-40.65
Indian Oil Corp	142.65	10.10
ITC	254.85	16.80
JSW Steel	243.70	5.60
Kotak Bank	1640.60	101.75
L&T	1528.50	117.00
M&M	565.00	-3.90
Maruti Suzuki	6897.85	305.90
NTPC	116.05	-3.80
ONGC	136.30	2.70
PowerGrid Corp	188.30	-7.90
Reliance Ind	1239.20	-15.15
State Bank	313.75	12.05
Sun Pharma	409.45	-4.25
Tata Motors	127.90	-5.35
Tata Steel	377.35	8.80
TCS	2015.80	-49.65
Tech Mahindra	682.80	-18.05
Titan	1311.80	48.25
Ultra Tech Cement	4391.10	121.45
UPL	580.85	18.75
Vedanta	157.90	-1.05
Wipro	239.35	-6.60
YES Bank	55.45	-0.05
Zee Entertainment	271.60	-29.80

EXCHANGE RATES			
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 23			
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL	
US Dollar	70.73	71.05	
Euro	77.70	78.06	
British Pound	88.00	88.41	
Japanese Yen (100)	65.80	66.11	
Chinese Yuan	9.93	9.97	
Swiss Franc	71.33	71.66	
Singapore Dollar	51.32	51.56	
Canadian Dollar	53.25	53.50	
Malaysian Ringgit	16.92	17.01	

BULLION RATES CHENNAI			
September 23 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses			
Retail Silver (1g)	51.4	(49.8)	
22 ct gold (1 g)	3612	(3580)	

# HR integration, main focus of merger, says Indian Bank MD

## ‘Common CBS platform to make process smoother’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

The integration of human resources (HR) would be the main focus area in the amalgamation of Indian Bank and Allahabad Bank, said Padmaja Chunduru, MD & CEO, Indian Bank.

Addressing the first town hall meeting after the boards of the two lenders approved the amalgamation, she said in the process, the banks faced two issues – technology and integration of HR.

Since both the banks worked on the common core banking solutions (CBS) platform, it would make the amalgamation relatively smoother, she pointed out.

It was the integration of HR that held the promise of strong growth for the



Technology and HR integration are the two issues facing the combined entity, says Padmaja Chunduru. • BIJOY GHOSH

merged bank and better career prospects for the employees, she added.

### Deriving synergies

According to her, the bank would derive synergies from wider pan-India presence, economies of scale, higher investments in technology and improving productivity.

Thomas Cook India said it would not be impacted by the collapse of the 178-year-old British tour operator Thomas Cook as it is an entirely different entity since August 2012, when it was acquired by Canada-based Fairfax Financial Holdings. “Post transfer of its entire stake in Thomas Cook (India) Ltd. to Fairfax, Thomas Cook U.K. ceased to be the promoter of Thomas Cook (India) from August 2012 and since then, Thomas Cook U.K. has had no financial or business stake in Thomas Cook (India) Limited,” the company said in a statement on Monday.

The clarification follows debt-laden Thomas Cook U.K. declaring bankruptcy on Monday. As per reports, the collapse of Thomas Cook U.K. has left about 6 lakh travellers stranded, sparking the U.K.’s biggest repatriation since World War II.

# India, Emirates discuss areas of future cooperation

## Growth opportunities for Indian banks deliberated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

India and the United Arab Emirates discussed areas for future cooperation, including growth opportunities for Indian banks, and the potential for private banks operating at the Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) to offer private wealth services in India, according to a joint statement issued by the Ministry of Commerce and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority.

The joint statement comes following the seventh meeting of the UAE-India High Level Joint Task Force on Investments, which was co-chaired by Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Managing Director of Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), and Indian Minister of Commerce Piyush Goyal.



Mutual understanding: Both sides also discussed the implementation of bilateral agreements. • AP

The statement added that the Indian government had agreed to “give an early consideration and mutually beneficial solution” to the issue of tax treatment of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority’s subsidiaries at the ADGM so as to facilitate the authority’s investments in

India. “In the context of the Air Services Agreement between India and UAE and the memorandum of understanding with the Emirates of Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Ras-Al Khaimah and Sharjah, both sides discussed the implementation of these bilateral agreements,” the joint statement said.

# NSE hit by technical glitch, trading hit briefly

## Exchange looks into reasons

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

A technical glitch hit trading terminals of the country’s largest exchange NSE on Monday, leaving investors with no real-time updates, markets sources said.

People close to the development said that there was a technical glitch at NSE for about 10 minutes around 3.15 p.m. The problem got resolved minutes before the closing session.

The exchange is looking into the reason for the glitch, they added.

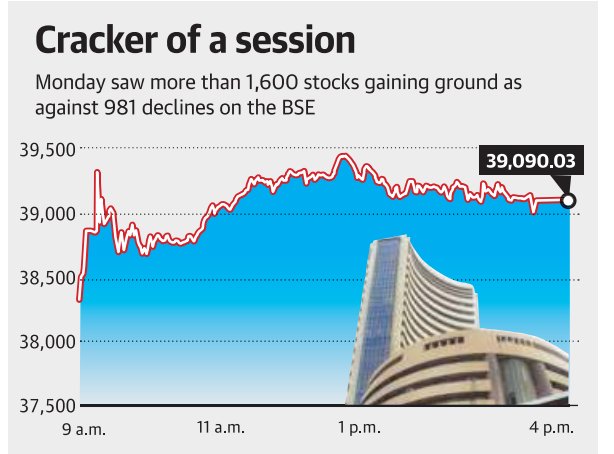
Earlier in the day, many brokers could not get feeds or price updates due to a connectivity issue with one of the Internet services providers, Sify. Later, the issue got resolved.

“There was a connecti-



ty issue with Sify during the morning trade session due to which some brokers could not get feeds. The issue has been resolved by the Internet service provider,” an NSE spokesperson said.

ICICI Direct had said in a tweet in the morning, “Price feeds not coming from NSE due to technical issue at NSE end. Limit orders not going across all products. Please place limit price.”



Friday’s announcements have made market experts turn bullish on the outlook for the equity market on the back of expected improvement in corporate earnings. “The combination of monetary and fiscal stimulus should help revive India’s growth rate... We raise our June 2020 BSE Sensex target from 40,000 to 45,000... reflecting higher earnings prospects rather than higher multiples,” stated the latest India strategy report by Morgan Stanley.

# Petronet tanks 5% after firm signs Tellurian deal

## ‘Pact exposes Indian importer to risks’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Shares of Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) tanked 5.28% on Monday to ₹252.75 on the back of signing an MOU with U.S. based Tellurian Inc. to buy up to 5 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of LNG from the Driftwood project, concurrent with equity investment.

PLL will invest \$2.5 billion for 18% in Tellurian Inc.’s \$28-billion Driftwood project in Louisiana to negotiate the purchase of 5 mtpa of LNG for 40 years.

Analysts see this move as a significant shift from the firm’s current utility model and say that it exposes the

# ZEEL drops 9.6% on share sale

## Some lenders sell shares days before standstill pact ends

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Some lenders of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. (ZEEL), who had entered into a standstill agreement over repayment of debt till September 30, sold shares days before the deadline ended.

Last week, the media and entertainment company had secured from some of the lenders another six-month extension to repay debt. Lenders who did not agree to give more time sold the shares.

### Bulk deal

According to NSE data, Catalyst Trusteeship sold 72.5 lakh shares of ZEEL at ₹281.75 per share, thereby pegging the bulk deal value

at ₹204.23 crore. While it could not be independently confirmed, the buzz in the market was that the lender sold shares on behalf of Kotak Mutual Fund. A spokesperson for Kotak Mutual Fund declined to comment.

While Kotak Mutual Fund had an exposure of around ₹400 crore towards Essel Group, the company had repaid about ₹200 crore early this month.

“Essel Group confirms that the lenders who had not agreed to grant the extension, have exited by selling the pledged shares of ZEEL. The other lenders, who value the assets, have, in-principle, agreed to grant more time to the group,” a compa-

# SBI to link floating rate retail, MSME loans to repo rate

## Changes will become effective from October 1 this year

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

State Bank of India (SBI), the country’s largest lender, decided to link all the floating rate retail loans and loans to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) to the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) repo rate, with effect from October 1.

In July, SBI had linked home loans to the repo rate but decided to discontinue the product earlier this month after the RBI came out with guidelines, mandating external benchmark-based floating rate products.

### Changes to product

“SBI had introduced floating rate home loans effective July 1, 2019. A few modifications have been made in the scheme effective October 1, 2019 to comply with the lat-



Drape it like  
Dolly

Meet the celebrity drape artist, who is trusted by stars like Deepika Padukone

JAGMEETA THIND JOY

One of the most common responses when asked why women don't wear saris regularly is that they find it cumbersome to drape it. Many of them will also tell you that it limits their mobility. Both statements make Dolly Jain cringe. "It's the quickest way to get dressed and when draped correctly, it can never hinder mobility," says the celebrity drape artist. Incidentally, Kolkata-based Jain holds the world record for draping a sari in 18.5 seconds. What's more, she can drape one in 325 different ways, and holds a world record for that as well. With over 15 years of experience, she has a list of celebrity clients – Nita Ambani, Isha Ambani, Sonam Kapoor, Priyanka Chopra, Deepika Padukone and many more.

Creating her niche

A professional sari draper is as unique a profession as the services it offers. And Jain has come a long way. "Born and raised in Bengaluru, I grew up wearing jeans and T-shirts. I detested wearing a sari,



but I got married into a family where that was the only outfit allowed," says Jain, who decided to use this to her advantage. "I began to drape my saris in different ways and was appreciated for it," she reminisces. Soon, young girls began to approach her to teach them how to drape a sari perfectly. "I held my first workshop for a finishing school in Raipur with 86 participants. That's when I decided to give my talent a professional platform."

Her family was initially apprehensive, but she credits her father for believing in her. "He told me I had six months to prove myself," says Jain, who invested in a mannequin and began documenting every sari drape.

"Initially, I did 50 styles. I then progressed to 80 styles, then 125, 225 and now my count is 325." These varied styles have found an online following that numbers over a lakh on Instagram and close to 67,000 on YouTube, where she shares her tips and tricks regularly. She has taken this mission offline as well, with workshops across India as well as in London, New York,

Paris, Canada, Abu Dhabi, Oman, Qatar and Bangladesh.

Style it your way

Next year, the professional drapist will be launching a unique coffee-table book on 365 styles of draping a sari. "It will present a new drape for each day, creating your own new outfit with your saris, your mother's and even your grandmother's," says Jain.

She credits designer duo Abu Jaini and Sandeep Khosla for spotting her talent. "I had draped a very heavy sari for a client, which they mentioned to Sandeep (Khosla). He was impressed, and then referred me to others," she says.

So what makes for the perfect drape? The art of using safety pins is not the only answer. "My secret tool is also a needle and thread," shares Jain, who neatly stitches the *dupatta* or *pallu* from the shoulder to the bust to avoid tacky gaps or any discomfort for the bride. "Today, cameras are everywhere documenting the occasion. You can't go wrong with even a single pleat, and the pins should never show," she explains, adding



Twist in the pallu

If you are looking to give your sari a modern twist, Jain offers the following tips

- Invest in a good selection of belts – both wide and narrow – that not only help keep the drape in place, but look smart too
- Who says you can't have fun with a sari? Jain recommends pairing up a sari or dupatta with a long jacket and even denims
- Go hands-free when socialising in a sari by investing in a smart fanny pack or waist pouch. "You can place your phone in it and wear it over the sari. Opt for a bejewelled and dressier one for formal dos," says Jain

that the comfort of the client is paramount.

Ask her about her dream client, and she says, "I would love to drape Rekha. She is the true brand ambassador for Indian saris. I want to try a different drape on her that would go with her personality, yet be very different."

Jain is now working on a photo shoot of five different ways to drape a Bengali sari for Durga Puja. She will also be showcasing how to do different drapes for Dandiya ensembles.

Dolly Jain's draping charges start at ₹25,000. Details: dollyjain.com, and @dolly.jain on Instagram

PREVIEW

The meal to Chettinad

Chefs from The Bangala, a luxury Chettinad property in Karaikudi, are in NCR for a series of pop-ups



It was once a colonial-era men-only club. But 20 years ago, entrepreneur Meenakshi Meyyapan revamped the property, which was in her family for over a century, into a heritage hotel. The Bangala (colloquial Tamil for 'bungalow') which opened in 1999 in Karaikudi, branded itself as Chettinad's first small luxury hotel.

Today, not only is the property nationally recognised by the lifestyle and F&B industry, but its authenticity of food is also a much storied affair. *The Bangala Table: Flavors and Recipes from Chettinad*, a 2014 book written by Suneet Nair and co-authored by Meyyapan herself, has documented 150 traditional vegetarian and non-vegetarian recipes that the restaurant has curated for the menu at the property.

The idea, for Meyyapan, was to conserve and promote the culture and cuisine of her land, going beyond Chettinad chicken. In line with this, the restaurant's team of chefs is now in Delhi for a series of pop-ups: they started with private sit-down meals at various properties around NCR, including in Gurugram.

Today and tomorrow, they will be hosting open-for-all lunches and dinners at The Lodhi. The meal will be served old school, on a banana leaf, with The Bangala's trademark checked table linen, as well as specific ingredients, all brought in from Karaikudi.

Their trademark Badam Halwa and Vadu Mangai (mango) pickle for instance, were made at the restaurant and transported for the pop-up, since these are dishes that can be stored.

But while here, the chefs will be preparing a menu that includes close to 20-odd dishes, vegetarian and non-vegetarian. You can expect a delicately perfumed Crab Rasam, tangy and sweet Pineapple Curry, a well done Masala Fried King Fish, crisp Banana Flower Vadai, and a flavourful Butter Beans (or Lima beans) Kurma.

At Elan, The Lodhi, on 24th and 25th September. ₹2,500 ++ for vegetarian, ₹3,500++ for non-vegetarian; lunch 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., dinner 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.; for reservations 43633333

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

#DELHIMOVES

Master of the road

Vinod Sehrawat uses his legs in more ways than one, to cover the distance

ANANT KAUR

In his initial days of marathon training, Vinod Sehrawat lost 18 kg. His family got so worried they thought he had diabetes. "From a 38-inch waistline I dropped to 30 inches," says Vinod. The 43-year-old drives trucks in and around Delhi, for a living. Vinod started running three years ago because he was tired of his sedentary lifestyle. "I felt mentally stagnant," he says. He was putting on weight alarmingly and gradually he developed fatigue which led him to "hate" his body. Eventually

he started walking in Vasant Vatika Park after dropping his two children off at school. Gradually, he started running, and when a fellow runner stopped him and advised him to take the sport more seriously, he did. "I am so passionate about running that it is now my life. No matter how tired I am after my day's hard work, I make sure that I run the next morning," he says, adding that it calms his body and mind ("Ek sukoon sa milta hai"). On the rare occasion he misses a run because of work, he'll practise in bet-



ween loading and unloading goods. Since he can't afford a gym membership, he does body-weight exercises (like push-ups) in the park. His 'guru' he says, is 35-year-old Abhishek Mishra, an Ironman and ultra runner (a run over 50 km). Unfazed by the pollution and weather, Vinod is now training for his second full marathon (42 km), the Apollo Tyres Millennium City Marathon. The first time, he finished a full in 3 hours and 30 minutes (a well-above-average timing). His half marathon (21 km) timing is 1 hour and 30 minutes. "I earn my livelihood by driving in pollution so it does not deter me from practising. Only a Delhiite can tackle all kinds of weather because of our extremes in heat, cold, and humidity conditions," he says. His family though, still cannot understand what he gets from the sport, except for his elder brother (Shri Bhagwan), who backs him when everyone else tries to discourage him from running. "I have stopped eating white sugar and I eat only



Running on full Vinod Sehrawat drives trucks and runs marathons • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

jaggery these days," he says. Vinod sticks to a simple diet of "home cooked food, salad and fruits." Last year he completed the self-created 365 day running challenge. "I ran 10 km every day and 21 km on Sundays, along with my marathon training. I completed 5,555 km in the process. In the future, my aim is to run ultra marathons. I would like

to compete in a triathlon someday, but I don't have the required funds."

Recognising his achievements, last year, Puma made a two-minute documentary on Vinod, highlighting his love of running.

The Apollo Tyres Millennium City Marathon, on December 1st, is open for registration on Townscript.com; 5 km, 10 km, 21 km, 42 km; ₹600 upward

PRODUCT

Books in the wild



The Nordic-style Rhino Bookshelf by Casa Exotique, a Delhi-based interior design firm founded by Bhavna Bhatnagar, is made in bleached plywood. The 4 ft x 3 ft bookshelf, which can be made in colors of natural wood, brown, and black, can also be used as a sideboard, coffee table, or a multipurpose desk. The company accepts customisation requests.

Available at A-119 Spazeedge Sohna Road, Gurugram; ₹45,000

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE

3RD ANNUAL PASSAGE TO PROSPERITY  
INDIA AFGHANISTAN  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE & INVESTMENT SHOW

VENUE: J.W. Marriott Hotel, Aerocity  
TIME: 10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Hari Hara  
A Solo Bharatanatyam presentation by  
Shivangee Vikram

The Stein Auditorium  
India Habitat Centre, New Delhi  
24th Sept. 2019, Tuesday

Oktoberfest

1911, the restaurant and bar, will hold a 10-day-long Oktoberfest, with German delicacies. On till October 6th, the menu features dishes like Hahnchen Schnitzel, a crumb fried chicken escalope; Weiner Schnitzel, a crumb fried tenderloin escalope; and Sauerbraten, a roasted tenderloin stew.

VENUE: The Imperial, Janpath  
TIME: 12:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.

Thumri festival

Sahitya Kala Parishad has organised a three-day Thumri Festival, to promote and showcase Hindustani classical music. Performances include those by up and coming artists, along with the maestros. The line-up this evening includes vocal recitals by Pt. Sarathi Chatterjee, Pt. Ganesh Prasad Mishra, and Ashwini Bhide-Deshpande.

VENUE: Kamani Auditorium, Mandi House  
TIME: 6:30 p.m.

Paintings

'Intertwined', an exhibition of paintings, showcases recent works by South Korean artist Jang Hee Mun. Through her work, it is apparent that the artist has imbibed Indian culture and ethos seamlessly. The artworks comprise layered forms and shapes in different colours, bringing out her distinct style.

VENUE: Triveni Kala Sangam, Mandi House  
TIME: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



Tamil

How does the book title *That Life's Importance* sound? Absurd, isn't it? This is what Microsoft Translator's Tamil translation of the book cover of J Krishnamurti's *Education and the Significance of Life* reads like. It is a nice feature, but it doesn't work to the T. It even got the author's name wrong. This is no laughing matter, but what is, is Google Translate's Voice feature.

When I asked in Tamil the direction to the nearest pharmacy, it said, 'Make your way to the drug store'. Not joking. And it is best that I do not mention what it came up with when I asked for help with buses to the railway station. Long story short, don't use Google's Voice feature. Among Google Translate's positive aspects is its Instant mode, in which you can simply point at English words with your camera and get them translated into Tamil. But the app doesn't support Tamil to English. Microsoft works reasonably better for English to Tamil if you key in the words, though. Hi Translate comes across as a breath of fresh air. There are no gimmicks. No fancy features. Just basic typing – simply type in Tamil or English and it works fuss-free. On one occasion, it translated 'forest' in Tamil to 'wild' in English. But other than that, it mostly got its Tamil spot on.

**Ranking: Hi Translate, Google Translate, Microsoft Translator**  
(Akila Kannadasan)



Telugu

I found a Telugu copy of Robin Sharma's *The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari*. Impressively, Google Translate could interpret the book's title effortlessly. I proceeded to scan a brief news report in Telugu with PV Sindhu and Mary Kom's picture, and the translated text was quickly ready without any errors. However, it struggles to translate when the font is not similar to its database. For instance, the app couldn't translate a provision store's signboard. While translating the phrases, however, we learnt, short and well-structured sentences deliver the best results. Google and Hi Translate tend to translate word-for-word. On two occasions, their results were exactly the same. Hi Translate's aggressive word-for-word translation engine falters when an English sentence has more than six words. On the other hand, Google handles long sentences well, but the translations are very formal. Despite minor tense-errors on three occasions out of five, Microsoft's output is more colloquial, often omitting a word. Google's voice translation is far from perfect. In fact, it reminded me of how Google Translate was in the early 2000s: almost unusable. However, if you use simple sentences, it works well. Microsoft has a clever workaround to this problem with a robust phrasebook.

**Ranking: Google Translate, Microsoft Translator and Hi Translate**  
(Archit Mehta, with inputs from Kishore Koyyalamudi)

Now we're talking

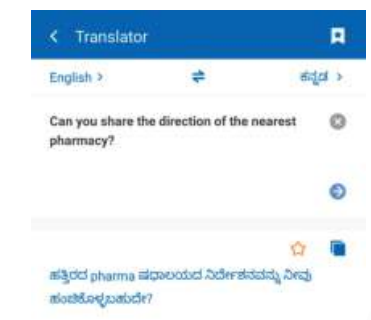
Whether you are looking for directions or just an ice-breaker, here are apps that may help you communicate better in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi

TEAM METROPLUS

Few people have the ability to speak multiple languages, a highly underrated life-skill. In the future, however, we might be able to get by, thanks to online translation tools (on cue: "there's an app for that!").

Ahead of United Nations' International Translation Day (September 30) – which recognises the role translation plays in bringing people together and strengthening verbal communication – we tested if it is easy to translate English phrases (via text input) into Telugu, Kannada, Tamil, Malayalam, and Hindi.

While there's a whole host of such apps, Google Translate, Hi Translate by Fun and Hi Tool, Hi Translator for iOS, and Microsoft Translator are the few that support close to six Indian languages – a lot of the others do not list any at all.



Kannada

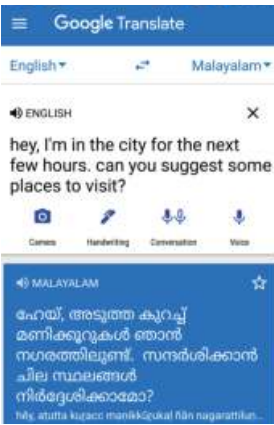
Three years ago, when I used Google Translate, the app gave me sentences that made no sense. Now, a lot has changed. I am surprised to see the app interchange sentences between English and Kannada with seemingly less effort and more accuracy. Similar is the case for Hi Translate, which is capable of precisely converting longer sentences with grammar in the right place. Though the apps seamlessly translate sentences, the extremely formal translations could make even a hardcore Kannada speaker go scurrying for a dictionary. While in most of the cases the word-for-word translations work fine, at times it changes the meaning of the sentence. For instance, Google translated a board that read 'Varsha Travels' in Kannada to 'Travel of the year'. ('Varsha' in Kannada means a year). Google Translate does not support voice output in Kannada. However, it effortlessly translates Kannada sentences into English. The scan feature in Google Translate works like magic when the app is able to recognise the font. However, it struggles to translate hand-written sentences and gets them wrong most of the times.

**Ranking: Google Translate, Hi Translate, (Microsoft Translator does not support Kannada translations)**  
(Aishwarya Upadhye)

**Malayalam**

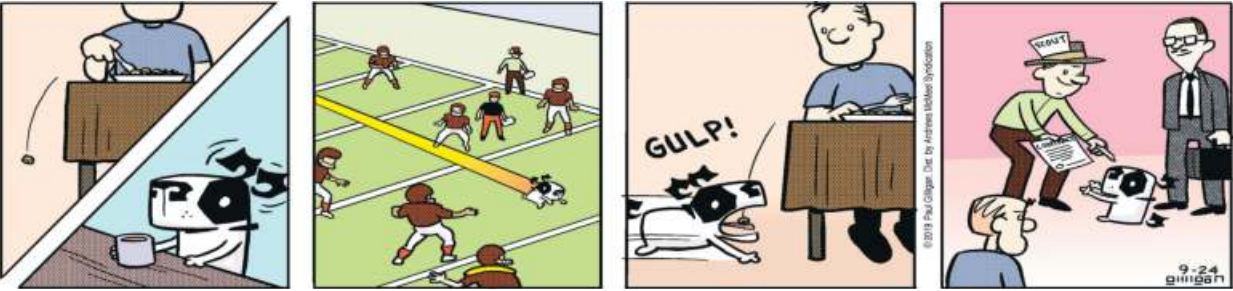
Upon scanning a front-page sidebar on a Malayalam daily using Google Translate, I was surprised to see its accuracy and efficiency. But for some rough edges, the translation of the brief text was pretty much precise, though if you look for word-for-word comparison, a phrase or two was slightly off target. However, the overall picture was clear. I then tried to translate the blurb of a Malayalam version of RK Narayan's *The Man-Eater of Malgudi* that packed in some dense usages in a single, long sentence. The translation read like a summary of the text, nevertheless meaningful, as if the app applied its own brain to weed out some elements for the sake of simplification. In terms of accuracy in interpretation, there were mixed responses. For one thing, some of the translations were quite formal, if not stilted, while both Google and Hi Translate often threw up similar results as if the same algorithm or intelligence were at work behind the scenes. While shorter sentences were impressive with their correctness, longer ones raised some question marks. Google's voice translation feature came across as a hit-or-miss affair, but largely usable with common sense. Similar story for voice translation from Malayalam to English too.

**Ranking: Google Translate, Hi Translate, (Microsoft Translator doesn't yet support Malayalam translations)**  
(Harikumar JS)



PHRASES TRANSLATED	
Which bus should I take to reach the railway station?	
Can you share the direction of the nearest pharmacy?	
Hey, I am in the city for the next few hours. Can you suggest some places to visit?	
I just lost my cell-phone. May I borrow your phone to make an urgent phone call?	
Sir, please charge a reasonable fare. I'm not travelling in an auto for the first time.	

POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



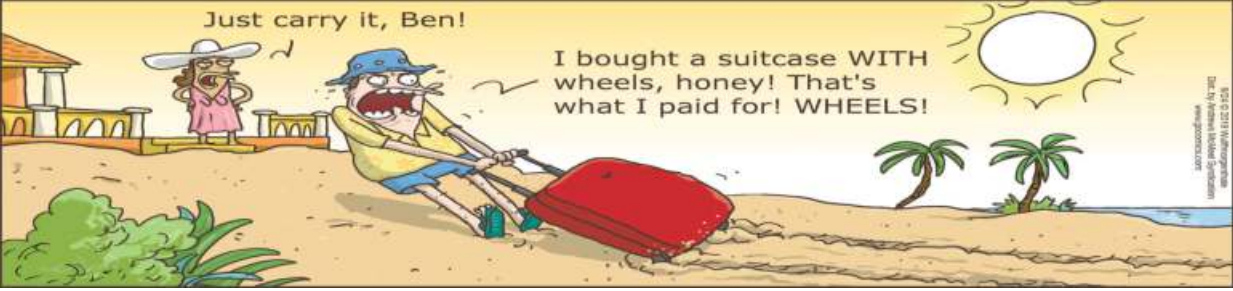
CALVIN AND HOBBS



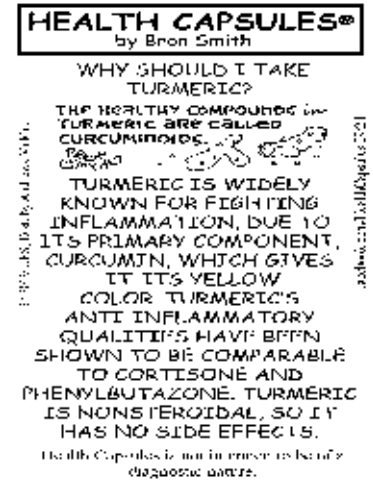
TIGER



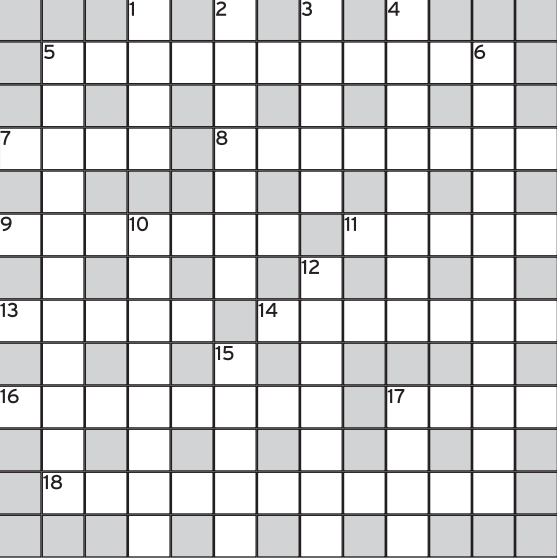
WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13182



- 2 Full of food (7)
- 3 From Swansea, say? (5)
- 4 Momentary loss of consciousness (8)
- 5 Moving seed of a Mexican shrub containing larva of a moth (7,4)
- 6 13 (6,5)
- 10 Lack (8)
- 12 Refuse container (7)
- 15 Cubicle (5)
- 17 Secret departure (by moonlight?) (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated September 25, 2019.

Solution No. 13181

- Across
- 5 Things are just as bad for me! (4,3,4)
- 7 Complacent (4)
- 8 Patty of shredded seafood and mashed potato (8)
- 9 Cool dude (7)
- 11 I beg your pardon (5)
- 13 Softly radiant (5)
- 14 State of being under arrest (7)
- 16 Salmon-like fish that also migrates from salt to fresh water (3,5)
- 17 Champagne, say? (4)
- 18 Shoving it in (anag) – cat-like ability? (5,6)
- Down
- 1 Vitality (4)

T	I	C	K	E	T	A	C	O	R	N	S
O	L	V	E	H	E	A					
W	R	O	T	E	P	R	I	M	A	C	Y
A	Y	N	A	R	A	D	I				
G	R	I	T	T	E	R	A	I			
E	N	T	U	G							
G	A	S	T	O	P						
F	I	I	A	I	T						
A	W	F	U	L							
T	O	K	G	O	A						
H	A	Y	W	I	R	E					
O	E	L									
M	A	R	T	I	R						
D	R	E	A	R							



# India launches World T20 preparations

South Africans confident of challenging the hosts despite missing three top stars

## SA WOMEN IN INDIA

AMOL KARHADKAR  
SURAT

The men may have moved on from the India blues into white flannels, but India's women cricketers will commence their final phase of the World T20 preparation on Tuesday in a five-match T20I series against South Africa at the Lalbhai Contractor Stadium here.

Considering the World T20 will start in Australia on February 21, 2020, captain Harmanpreet Kaur understands that the five T20Is under lights – India Women's first floodlit outing in a bilateral series at home – will offer her and coach W.V. Raman an opportunity to test the young talent.

**Experimenting**

“As you know, the World Cup is coming, that's why we are playing more T20s ahead of the tournament. We have 10-15 games to experiment and give chances to youngsters and see how they fit into the side,” said Harmanpreet said on Monday, before slogging it out in the nets with her teammates.

The fact that the team has several young faces – with



**All set:** South Africa captain Sune Luus addresses the media along with her India counterpart Harmanpreet Kaur in Surat on Monday. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the 15-year-old Shafali Verma stealing the limelight – coincides with the onset of the post-Mithali Raj era in T20Is.

The legendary Mithali recently announced her retirement from the shortest format. It will be interesting to see whether the younger batters can grab the opportuni-

ty and senior pros like Smriti Mandhana and Harmanpreet can shoulder the additional burden.

Raman also conceded that the inclusion of four pacers in the squad was done “keeping the World T20 in mind”. It remains to be seen if a youngster like Pooja Vas-

trakar, who has been recalled, can impress.

Just like the host, the visiting outfit has also rested three of its key players – veteran batter Mignon du Preez, along with star all-rounders Marizanne Kapp and Chloe Tryon. But captain Sune Luus exuded confidence that

## H2H

- Played 6
- India won 4, South Africa won 1
- No Result 1

her bunch can stretch India over the next two weeks.

While the teams will have one eye on the World T20, the Surat District Cricket Association officials and volunteers will be hoping that the weather remains clear.

After all, they are hoping for a capacity crowd for what would be the maiden international cricket match to be staged in the Diamond City.

**The teams (from): India:** Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-Capt.), Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma, Taniya Bhatia (wk), Poonam Yadav, Shikha Pandey, Arundhati Reddy, Pooja Vastrakar, Radha Yadav, Veda Krishnamurthy, Harleen Deol, Anuja Patil, Shafali Verma and Mansi Joshi.

**South Africa:** Sune Luus (Capt.), Anneke Bosch, Tasmin Brits, Nadine de Klerk, Shabnim Ismail, Sinalo Jafta (wk), Ayabonga Khaka, Lara Goodall, Lizelle Lee, Nonkululeko Mlaba, Tum Sekhukhune, Nondumiso Shangase, Mignon du Preez and Lara Wolvaardt.

*Match starts at 7 p.m.*

# Kohli gets official warning, one demerit point

For an inappropriate shoulder contact with pacer Beuran



Virat Kohli. ■AFP

## SA IN INDIA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BENGALURU

India captain Virat Kohli has received an official warning and one demerit point for violating the ICC Code of Conduct when he made an inappropriate shoulder contact with pacer Beuran Hendricks during the third T20I against South Africa here.

**Guilty**

Kohli was found guilty of a Level 1 breach of the ICC

## India-South Africa T20I series in numbers

Batting						
Name	Inn	Runs	HS	Avg.	SR	50s/100s
Quinton de Kock	2	131	79*	131	147.19	2/0
Virat Kohli	2	81	72*	81	120.89	1/0
Temba Bavuma	2	76	49	76	115.15	0/0
Shikhar Dhawan	2	76	40	38	135.71	0/0
Reeza Hendricks	2	34	28	17	91.89	0/0
Bowling						
Name	Inn	W	BBI	Avg.	Eco	4W/5W
Bjorn Fortuin	2	3	2/19	17	7.28	0/0
Kagiso Rabada	2	3	3/39	21	9	0/0
Beuran Hendricks	1	2	2/14	7	3.5	0/0
Deepak Chahar	2	2	2/22	18.5	5.28	0/0
Tabraiz Shamsi	2	2	1/19	21	6	0/0
Hardik Pandya	2	2	1/23	27	9	0/0

Code of Conduct in the match which South Africa won by nine wickets on Sunday.

The incident took place in the fifth over of the Indian innings when Kohli made contact with Hendricks while taking a run.

“Kohli was found to have breached Article 2.12 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to ‘Inappropriate physical contact with a Player, Player Support Personnel, Umpire,

Match Referee or any other person (including a spectator) during an International Match’,” the ICC said in a statement.

In addition to this, one demerit point has been added to the disciplinary record of Kohli.

Kohli now has three demerit points after having got one each during the Pretoria Test against South Africa on January 15, 2018 and against Afghanistan in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019 on June 22.

# Madhav Apte passes away

G. VISWANATH  
MUMBAI

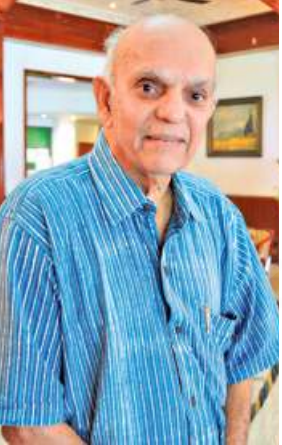
Former India cricketer Madhav Apte breathed his last at the Breach Candy Hospital here on Monday morning. He was 86 and had been ailing for a few months. He is survived by wife Sheela, son Vaman and two daughters, Radhika and Janhavi.

Apte was admitted to hospital last Saturday. “He lived a full life,” said Vaman, an accomplished squash player. Apte's younger brother, Arvind, who played one Test against England at Headingley in 1959, passed away five years ago.

India's cricketing fraternity has always wondered why Madhav Apte had not worn the India cap more than seven times.

He made a decent Test debut against the Abdul Hafeez Kardar-led Pakistan at the Brabourne Stadium in 1952 – 30 and 10 not out. He then made 42 against Pakistan at Chepauk, 64 and 52 in his first overseas Test against the West Indies at Port-of-Spain, 64 and 9 at Bridgetown, 0 and 163 not out at Port-of-Spain, 30 and 30 at Georgetown and 15 and 33 at Kingston.

Despite this, the right-



Madhav Apte. ■FILE PHOTO

He was a true aficionado of our beloved game and just couldn't have enough of it. The cricketing get-togethers at his house were memorable evenings. I will miss those evenings, listening to him along with some of the greatest names in Indian cricket

SUNIL GAVASKAR

handed opener never played for India again. He must have heard at least a thousand times the question why he was not chosen after that tour of the West Indies.

According to those who have watched him play, Apte was a solid and stylish opener. He scored 542 runs at 49.27 and most of his runs came against the likes of Frank King, Gerry Gomez, Frank Worrell, Alf Valentine and Sonny Ramadhin.

He played 67 First Class matches (46 Ranji Trophy for Bombay and three for Bengal) scored 3,336 runs, with six centuries and 16 half-centuries.

Apte was chairman of the Mumbai Cricket Association's Cricket Improvement Committee. He was also president of the Cricket Club of India in the early 1990s and president of the Legends Club.

Chandu Patankar, Vasu Paranjape, Sunil Gavaskar, Jatin Paranjape and many cricketers were present at the Shivaji Park crematorium.

“Madhavrao was a real friend,” said a very emotional Patankar.

Apte got along well with different generations of cricketers and was a raconteur par excellence.

# T10 is ideal for Olympics and CWG, says Morgan

G. VISWANATH  
MUMBAI

Eoin Morgan, England's World Cup-winning captain, said the T10 format of cricket is ideally suited for the Olympic and Commonwealth Games.

While promoting the first Abu Dhabi T10 featuring 10 teams that will be broadcast by Sony Pictures Network from November 14 to 24, the 33-year-old Dublin-born attacking left-hander said that just as Twenty20 made an impact in international cricket, T10 will also entertain and popularise the game.

Morgan, who played his last Test in 2012 and began the journey of white-ball cricket, felt that a 60-ball game will cause as much buzz as the Twenty20 (120-ball game) did.

“The role that T20 has played in growing and changing the game, I think T10 has a similar role to play. I say that for different reasons. T10 is one of the most entertaining formats for people to watch. It's a minute avenue in the same way as T20 and saying to people



Eoin Morgan. ■VIVEK BENDRE

that this is our sport and this is what it looks like. It's a great little advert for the game; one can host a tournament in such a short span of time, say 10 teams in 12 days.

**Selling point**

“And that makes it such a selling point for the Olympic and Commonwealth Games. We don't know anything about the 100-ball tournament because we have not experienced it. I think it will be a success. I do believe that T10 could be ideal for the Olympics and CWG. A game only lasts 90 minutes. A lot of countries will prepare for the Games and financially back the sport.”

# Trump adds buzz to NBA India debut

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

“Am I invited Mr. Prime Minister?” With that question to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Donald Trump put the spotlight firmly on NBA's India debut next month where the organisers are expecting a full house.

Speaking at the ‘Howdy Modi’ event in Houston, Texas, Trump mentioned his interest in the high-profile basketball league, which will be making its India debut on October 4 and 5 with a couple of pre-season games between Sacramento Kings and the Indiana Pacers.

Trump said NBA will be one of America's best exports to India.

“...very soon, India will have access to another world class American product – NBA basketball. Wow, sounds good. Next week, thousands of people will gather in Mumbai to watch the first ever, NBA basketball game in India,” Trump said.

“I may come, be careful, I may come,” he quipped as Prime Minister Modi laughed.

# A difficult task ahead for India

Has strong opponents — Japan, South Korea and Chinese Taipei — in its group

## WOMEN'S ASIA CUP

ASHWIN ACHAL  
BENGALURU

India has a tough task ahead in the FIBA Women's Asia Cup basketball tournament, which commences at the Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium here on Tuesday.

India (World No. 45) has three strong opponents – defending champion Japan (World No. 10), South Korea (World No. 18) and Chinese Taipei (World No. 39) – in Group-A of Division-A.

India had qualified for the elite Division-A by winning the lower Division-B title in the previous edition held at the same venue in 2017.

The host begins its campaign against Japan on the opening day. With Japan and South Korea appearing to be a cut above a rest, India will hope to defeat a comparatively weaker Chinese Taipei in order to avoid relegation.

Australia, China, New Zealand and Philippines are in Group-B. The top team in each group will progress to the semifinal, while the second- and third-placed sides will battle for the remaining two last-four slots.

India skipper R. Rajapriyadarshini wore a confident



**The action begins...** Japan, hoping to become the third nation to complete a four-peat, will count on two-time Women's Asia Cup MVP Ramu Tokashiki to come good. ■K. MURALI KUMAR

look on the eve of the championship. “Our preparation has been very good,” Rajapriyadarshini said. “Winning and losing is secondary. Our aim is to give our very best on the court.”

Coach Zoran Visic stated: “We cannot afford to play below our full potential. We will try to use the crowd support to the maximum.”

Fans can look forward to seeing world-class players in action. Japan, hoping to become the third nation to complete a four-peat (after South Korea and China), will

count on two-time Women's Asia Cup MVP Ramu Tokashiki to come good.

Japan coach and former NBA player Tom Hovasse said that while his side will miss the services of electric guard Asami Yoshida, there are plenty of other quality players on the roster.

**Speed, precision passing**

The trademark Japanese speed and precision passing will be on full display here, Hovasse added.

“Playing with speed is the only way we can win. We can't beat physically bigger teams like Australia and China in a half-court game. We have to run, use the entire court and open things up. That's a big part of our game,” he said.

The powerhouse Australian unit boasts of six players from the team that finished runner-up to USA in the 2018 Women's Basketball World Cup. The physical Chinese side will be led by Shao Ting and Han Xu, both of whom played in the WNBA this season. Star forward Kelli Hayes, fresh from a four-year stint for UCLA Bruins in the NCAA, will make her Asia Cup debut with Philippines.

Entry is free.

# Cash awards for Panghal and Kaushik

## BOXING

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday felicitated boxers Amit Panghal and Manish Kaushik with cash awards for their medal-winning performances in the World Championships in Ekaterinburg, Russia.

While Panghal was handed a cash award of ₹14 lakh for winning silver in the 52kg category, Kaushik received ₹8 lakh for winning bronze in the 63kg section.

Panghal, who was the second seed, created history as he became the first male Indian boxer to reach the final of the World Championship.

The 23 year-old Kaushik had an impressive run in the tournament as he knocked out fourth seed and Asian Games silver medallist Baatarsukhin Chinzorig in the round-of-16, before seeing his campaign end in the semifinals at the hands of top seed Andy Cruz Gomez.

“I am very proud of India's best-ever performance at the men's



Amit Panghal. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

■ Panghal was given ₹14 lakh for winning silver

■ Kaushik received ₹8 lakh for his bronze

boxing World Championship.

“I feel India has a great future in boxing. In fact, even those who reached the quarterfinal stage need to be congratulated for their performances,” Rijiju said.

“This is the Olympic year and these medals are a sign that India is prepared to put up a good show at Tokyo 2020.

“I want to assure all athletes, across all sporting disciplines, that we will extend all support.”

# Bulls roar back to share honours

## PKL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JAIPUR

Bengaluru Bulls and Dabang Delhi played out a thrilling 39-39 tie in a Pro Kabaddi League match at the Savai Mansingh Stadium here on Monday.

Dabang was in the lead for most part, but a late comeback by Bulls, courtesy Pawan Sehrawat, saw the sides finish level.

Dabang's Naveen Kumar scored 14 raid points – his 15th consecutive Super 10 – but will rue missing out on a chance to put in a successful raid in the final move of the contest. Despite the tie, Dabang remained on top of the table.

**Steelers beat Pirates**

In the opening match of the day, Vikas Kandola turned out to be the star performer for Haryana Steelers as it beat three-time champion Patna Pirates 39-34.

Vikas's Super 10 (13 raid points) saw Steelers come up with a complete performance. The victory helped Steelers consolidate their third position in the table.



TV PICKS

**Rugby World Cup:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.  
**Tri-nations T20I:** Final, Bangladesh v Afghanistan, 55 Select 2 (SD & HD), 6 p.m.  
**India (W) vs South Africa (W):** 1st T20I, Star Sports 3, 7 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Munoz pulls out playoff win; Lahiri T-45

LOS ANGELES  
Colombian Sebastian Munoz parred the first playoff hole on Sunday at the Sanderson Farms Championship to beat Im Sung-jae and earn his first US PGA Tour victory. Munoz fired a closing round two-under 70 for an 18-under 270 to tie with Im, who closed with a 66 on Sunday. South Korean An Byeong-hun finished third, one shot behind the leaders, after a 69. Anirban Lahiri rounded off the week with a three-under 69 to end Tied 45th. AFP



Warne gets driving ban for speeding offences

LONDON  
Australia Test great Shane Warne was on Monday banned from driving for 12 months after his sixth speeding offence in a two-year period. The former leg-spinner admitted breaking a 40mph limit in a hired Jaguar in London last year, a court heard. The 50-year-old, who was not in court for the hearing, was clocked at 47mph early on August 23, 2018. Warne was also ordered to pay a total fine of £1,845. Between April 2016 and August last year Warne committed six speeding offences. AFP



Aditi best Indian; Korda wins French Open

PARIS  
Aditi Ashok was the best Indian at the Lacoste Ladies Open de France golf as she shot even par 71 in the final round to finish Tied 26th. While Aditi ended with a total of 289, Diksha Dagar (72) was T-43 and Tvesa Malik (74) was T-63. American Nelly Korda shot a four-under 67 to win her first LET title. PTI

Odisha RFC starts with win

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

Defending champion Odisha RFC started its title defence on a moderate note, downing local challenger Jungle Crows 15-0 in the opening round of the fourth all-India women's Rugby XV's here at CC&FC on Monday.

The biggest win of the day was recorded by Delhi Hurricanes, who thrashed neighbouring side Haryana Warriors 72-0 to move to the next round.

Maharashtra women bettered the other Odisha team Adibasi RFC 17-7 while host CC&FC piped Bihar RFC in 24-19 in extra-time after the two sides were locked 19-19 at the end of regulation period.

**The results:**  
**Women's league:** Maharashtra 17 bt Adibasi RFC 7; Delhi Hurricanes 72 (Neha 4 tries, Shikha 2, Priya 2) bt Haryana Warriors 0; Odisha 15 bt Jungle Crows 0; CC&FC 24 bt Bihar 19 (extra-time).  
**Men's loser's plate:** CC&FC 15 bt Delhi Lions 0; Jungle Crows 32 bt ACE Foundation 12; Bangalore RFC 52 bt Madurai Veerams 0.

The buzz seems to be missing

The tournament will roll out a hectic six-month season starting on Tuesday

HAZARE TROPHY

AMOL KARHADKAR SURAT

Ambati Rayudu is back in cricketing gear after enjoying the World Cup with 3D glasses. Robin Uthappa has a new team. Shreyas Iyer, having virtually sealed a place in India's limited-over squad, has returned to lead Mumbai's title defence.

Rishabh Pant will hope to regain some confidence before joining India's Test squad. The domestic teams' roster will have an addition in Chandigarh, which will become the 38th team to be a part of domestic circuit.

Still, with the little attention that has been given to it yet again, the Vijay Hazare Trophy hasn't really created as much buzz as it should. The inter-state tournament will roll out a hectic six-month season of domestic cricket starting on Tuesday.

Problem of venues

With no other option but to

The groups

**Group A:** Mumbai, Saurashtra, Andhra, Chhattisgarh, Hyderabad, Karnataka, Kerala, Goa, Jharkhand

**Group B:** Delhi, Vidarbha, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Baroda, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab

**Group C:** Gujarat, Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Services, Railways, Bihar

**Plate:** Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Assam, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand, Puducherry

Tuesday's matches (9 a.m. start)

**Elite: Group A (Bengaluru):** Mumbai v Saurashtra, Andhra v Chhattisgarh, Hyderabad v Karnataka.

**Group B (Vadodara):** Delhi v Vidarbha, Maharashtra v Himachal, Baroda v Odisha.

**Group C (Jaipur):** Gujarat v Bengal, Tamil Nadu v Rajasthan, J&K v Tripura.

**Plate (Dehradun):** Nagaland v Manipur, Meghalaya v Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh v Mizoram

start the Vijay Hazare Trophy before the monsoon subsides, the BCCI has struggled to find venues.

And with the late addition of Chandigarh, the finalisation of fixtures was also delayed. As a result, by the time Jaipur, Vadodara, Bengaluru and Dehradun were confirmed as venues, the teams barely had time to get into the groove.

If that was not enough, the

extended monsoon in most parts of the country has resulted in a majority of teams entering the league stage – to be played from September 24 to October 16 – undercooked.

The rain is likely to chase them at all the four venues, at least during the first half of the tournament.

Cream will play

Despite the various challeng-

es, the fact is that the cream of India's white-ball cricketers – barring the top lot who will feature against South Africa in three Tests – will be keen to impress the selectors and help their teams start the season on a positive note.

Still, neither the BCCI nor any of the staging associations have really put in any effort to market the tournament.

As a result, most matches – despite the presence of big names – will go unnoticed, though a few select matches are to be live-streamed by CCI's broadcasting partner.

Chance for youngsters

For the young flock, though, the white-ball season of domestic cricket – with the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy set to follow the Vijay Hazare Trophy – will be an opportunity to stake a claim in the Indian squad for next year's World Twenty20.

It will be interesting to see if the youngsters make the most of these two months.



Back in action: Ambati Rayudu, who did a flip-flop on his retirement, returns to lead Hyderabad against Karnataka. •FILE PHOTO

Pakistan not participating

N. SUDARSHAN BENGALURU

In the aftermath of Indian government's decision to revoke Article 370, Pakistan is not among the 28 nations that are set to participate in the Asian Age Group Championships.

"Pakistan never confirmed participation because its government never gave clearance," said Virendra Nanavati, executive director, SFI.

"We sent invites to all 45 countries in Asia. If Pakistan was ready to come, I feel we would have got the clearance."

INRC Kochi rally as scheduled

Organisers say no fallout of Jodhpur incident

RAYAN ROZARIO JODHPUR

Rumours have been doing the rounds here that the Champions Yacht Club-FMSCI Popular Rally, the fourth round of the Indian National Rally Championship for cars scheduled at Kochi in November is at stake after the unfortunate incident here involving Gaurav Gill a couple of days ago.

But Vamsi Merla, INRC promoter, cleared the air saying it would run as scheduled.

"It's a long way to go, but there's no question of

calling off the Kochi event. I have been in touch with the organisers and they assured me that everything is in place.

"We are right now at the stages in the Kottayam region and have been explaining to the people about the rally.

Notices to locals

"We have also been issuing notices to local residents," said George Varghese of Southern Adventures and Motorsports, the rally organisers.

"There will be spectator control marshals every

750m. They will be locals as they have better interaction and understanding," he added.

The former driver and navigator at several national rallies also said there would be banners across the area tinforming the public about the dos and don'ts.

"We have given letters to all authorities concerned and have also explained to them how the event will be run.

"They sounded very positive and it will be run as scheduled," Varghese said.

Bairstow, Roy dropped for NZ tour

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON

England has omitted Jonny Bairstow from its Test squad for the tour of New Zealand, with paceman James Anderson unavailable for the two-match series due to a calf injury.

Warwickshire opener Dominic Sibley has been rewarded for his prolific summer with a berth on the plane alongside Kent batsman Zak Crawley and Lancashire pair Saqib Mahmood and Matt Parkinson.

Batsman Jason Roy, who starred in England's World Cup triumph, is another

name missing from the 15-strong Test squad after a tough Ashes series.

Surrey batsman Ollie Pope, who played two Tests against India in 2018, is back in the squad while Jos Butler will be the wicketkeeper in New Zealand in Bairstow's absence. The first Test, at Mount Maunganui, starts on November 21. The series is not included in the World Test Championship.

Morgan to lead in T20Is

World Cup-winning captain Eoin Morgan will captain the Twenty20 team, with the five-match series starting on

Bangladesh holds India

SAFF U-18 FOOTBALL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KATHMANDU

India was held to a goalless draw by Bangladesh in its opening match of the SAFF under-18 football championship here on Monday.

India started on an attacking note but an injury to goalkeeper Prabhsukan Singh Gill in the ninth minute forced coach Floyd Pinto to make an early change.

With Bangladesh committing bodies in defence, India found it difficult to get past the opponent's backline.

Pinto termed the game as a difficult encounter. "Bangladesh defended with 10 men and I have to give credit to the boys for not stopping to put in the effort," he said.

India will play Sri Lanka in its last group stage match on Wednesday and the top two teams from the group will qualify for the semifinals on September 27.

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE MADRID

Real Madrid eased the pressure on Zinedine Zidane and delivered a resounding response to its loss to Paris Saint-Germain by winning 1-0 away at high-flying Sevilla in La Liga on Sunday.

Karim Benzema headed in the decisive goal at the Ra-



Pleased as punch: Karim Benzema celebrates with Sergio Ramos after scoring the game's only goal. •REUTERS

Malvika triumphs



Malvika Bansod with her reward •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MALE

Young Indian shuttler Malvika Bansod beat Myanmar's Thet Htar Thuzar 21-13, 21-11 to win the Maldives International Future Series, and claim her maiden title, on Sunday.

However, in men's singles, Kevin Arokia Walter finished runner-up after losing 21-13, 21-14 to Thailand's Kantawat Leelavechabutr.

Vaibhaav and Prakash Raj claimed the men's doubles title after beating Thailand's Pakkapon Teeraratsakul and Panitchaphon Teeraratsakul 21-16, 21-15.

Ankita goes down to Paquet

SPORTS BUREAU TASHKENT

Ankita Raina went down fighting to the eighth seed Chloe Paquet of France in the first qualifying round of the \$250,000 WTA tennis tournament on Monday. The 160th-ranked Chloe prevailed 7-6(8), 3-6, 7-5. **The result:** \$250,000 WTA, Tashkent, Uzbekistan: Qualifying singles (first round): Chloe Paquet (Fra) bt Ankita Raina 7-6 (8), 3-6, 7-5.





The optimist: Manish Kaushik was delighted with his overall effort in the World championships. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# Manish takes heart from improved show

“The success at one of the biggest platforms in the world gave me a lot of confidence”

## BOXING

**Y.B. SARANGI**  
KOLKATA

Manish Kaushik learnt the importance of boxing at a good speed as he raised his game to a different level to bag a bronze medal in the World boxing championships in Ekaterinburg.

The 23-year-old Army-man, who is known for his clean punches and good combinations, was delighted with his overall effort in the World championships.

“World championships was my best experience as a boxer. I worked on my speed and skill and it benefited me. I felt like an improved boxer,” Manish told *The Hindu* on Monday.

“I learnt the need to box at a faster speed. It helps one win points, win bouts... The success at one of the biggest platforms in the world gave me a lot of confidence.

“Fighting with some of the best in the business, like Asian Games, Olympics and Worlds medalists, was a big boost. My new confidence level should work well for me in the Olympic qualifier.”

**Inspired by Vijender**

Hailing from the boxing hub, Bhiwani district in Haryana, Manish – who took to the sport after being inspired by Vijender Singh’s Beijing Olympics medal – said he trusted his own approach.

“I don’t believe in going all out and wasting energy

needlessly. I study the rival and look where I can score points.”

High performance director Santiago Nieva was all praise for the boxer. “Manish was fantastic through the whole week. He showed better level than before. It was a new weight category for him (after switching from 60kg to 63kg) and the way he boxed with stronger and bigger boxers and the maturity he showed was superb,” said Nieva.

Manish said he will have to lift his game for the continental Olympic qualifier in Wuhan, China, in February. “I need to work on my strength as per my new weight class and improve my game,” said Manish.

# Sporting beats Peerless, goes to the top

## CFL

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
KOLKATA

Mohammedan Sporting dislodged Peerless SC from the top of the standings as it downed the latter by two second half goals in Calcutta Football League’s premier division ‘A’ match at its home ground on Monday.

Kareem Omolaja found the lead at the hour mark and Vanlalbiaa Chhangte fetched the second nine minutes later to give Sporting full points.

The result vaulted Sporting to the top of the standings with 19 points from 10 matches, while Peerless with 17 from nine matches has dropped to the second position.

While Sporting has a match left, the contest for the crown has narrowed down to Peerless and 39-time champion East Bengal (also on 17 points but placed third with an inferior goal difference), who have two matches each to go. East Bengal plays Mohammedan Sporting on Thursday in a match that will have a lot of bearing on the final outcome. Peerless takes on Rainbow SC in another match same day.

**Costly miss**

Following a barren first half, Peerless gained early momentum by launching a series of quick counter-attacks after the change of ends. Its efforts bore fruit in the 54th minute when Peerless was awarded a penalty but Jiten Murmu shot over from the spot.

Peerless rued the absence of its prolific striker Ansumana Kromah, who was serving a suspension. Sporting made most of the reprieve and found two quick goals to seal the issue.

**The result:** Mohammedan Sporting 2 (Kareem Omolaja 60, Vanlalbiaa Chhangte 69) bt Peerless SC 0.

# Better late than never, says Rahul Aware

**Y.B. SARANGI**  
KOLKATA

Rahul Aware was overwhelmed with emotions after securing a bronze medal in men’s 61kg freestyle at the World wrestling championships in Nur-Sultan.

The 29-year-old – who has won medals in Commonwealth Youth Games, Asian junior championships, Asian championships, Commonwealth championships and the 2018 Commonwealth Games (gold) in the last decade or so – regained his self-belief after earning India’s fifth medal at the elite event.

“Maybe I lacked a bit of luck as I faltered at the last hurdle in several top events. Since I was capable, I won this medal. Better late than never,” Aware told *The Hindu* on Monday.

Aware admitted that he

was under pressure after losing to Georgian Beko Lomtadze in the semifinals.

“I was really sad. I thought I missed yet another opportunity to get an important medal.

“My earlier failures played on the mind. I was tense prior to the repechage bout as I had a tough fight with the USA opponent (Tyler Graff) on a previous occasion.

“I tried ‘fitley’ but it did not work. Finally, I was successful when I applied ‘tangi’ technique (using both legs to capture opponent’s leg).”

**Pedigree**

Aware, who comes from a family of wrestlers in Patoda of Beed district in Maharashtra and learnt his first lessons from his father and National-level wrestler Balasaheb Aware, fine-tuned his game under the late Harischandra

Birajdar and then under famous grappler Kaka Pawar.

Aware did not regret that he could not get a medal in an Olympic weight division. “I will try for it in the next Olympics.

“Nowadays wrestlers are stretching their career up 38-40 years. Sushil Kumar is a prime example. One has to stay away from injuries to have a long career.”

**Supports wrestlers**

Aware, who supports five talented wrestlers from Maharashtra by giving them a monthly stipend of ₹5000 each, wants to re-establish his State as a wrestling powerhouse.

“We have the talent and the tradition. If I get some help from the Government, I can start an academy and produce some fine wrestlers,” he said.

# Divij relieved with change of fortunes

## Wants to play more tournaments to improve his rankings

## TENNIS

**KAMESH SRINIVASAN**  
NEW DELHI

Divij Sharan was understandably delighted on winning his second ATP Tour title of the season in St. Petersburg, with Igor Zelenay of Slovakia, on Sunday.

“It is always a big moment to win a Tour event. This is the first time I have won a second title in the same year, so it is even more special,” said Divij, who took time, despite the hectic travel, to talk to *The Hindu*.

After winning with Rohan Bopanna the Pune event, it has been a tough progress for Divij. “I lost early in Winston-Salem and the US Open. So, it has been an encouraging last three weeks for me to have come around and win the big \$125,000 Challenger in Jinan and now the ATP Tour event in St. Petersburg,” said Divij, quite relieved with the change of fortunes.

Divij, who could not con-



Mission accomplished: Divij Sharan, right, and Igor Zelenay with the trophies • PICTURE COURTESY: SPOOPEN.RU

tinue with Bopanna as the two were not getting into the big events with their combined rank, has been playing with many partners.

“There are not that many tournaments left this year. I will need higher-ranked partners to get into the bigger ATP 500 and 1000 events. I will be on the lookout and hopefully play in some of them,” he said.

Divij, who had closed his season in October last year, hopes to build his rankings

this time, for the season ahead.

“The goal is to continue to build on the recent performances and be able to play all the ATP Tour events leading up to Paris. Getting my ranking up by another 5-10 spots should help with that,” observed Divij, ranked 49th in the doubles.

Thanks to the TOPS scheme, Divij has been able to have a coach and trainer for some weeks during the summer.

# Zee Kushti Dangal from Nov. 3

## WRESTLING

**ANANT KAUR**  
NEW DELHI

In the race of so many leagues, Zee Kushti Dangal, a wrestling league has also joined the bandwagon. This league, however, is a little different from the rest – it will, for the first time, feature an under-15 category along with the senior competition.

The league, beginning November 3, will feature eight teams and a total of 86 wrestlers. Each team will have four men and three women

wrestlers. Players will be picked from four zones in the country.

**Top names unlikely**

It is unlikely that any of the top wrestlers like Vinesh Phogat, Sushil Kumar, Divya Kakran and Sandeep Tomar – who were present at the announcement of this league – will participate.

Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh said, “We are hopeful that this league will not only provide fans with nail-biting action and entertainment, but also

help in identifying newer talent in the world of *kushti* (wrestling).”

Since Sushil Kumar became a world champion in Moscow in 2010, there has been a definite rise in the sport’s popularity.

Brij Bhushan said, “children as young as eight years old are coming to the stadium to learn wrestling, this shows their enthusiasm to start as early as possible.”

The Kushti Dangal is focussed on giving opportunities to grassroot talent in different cities as it will be a second-string event.

# Challenges are different, goal remains same

Vinesh and Sushil have Tokyo on their target

**UTHRA GANESAN**  
NEW DELHI

At 25, Vinesh Phogat is seeking her first Olympic medal in 2020 and wipe off memories of a freak injury and an incomplete Rio outing. At 36, Sushil Kumar has got two from Olympics – and is still hopeful of booking a ticket to Tokyo.

plete my bout.

“So that feeling of not knowing has felt incomplete,” she said on the sidelines of an event here on Monday.

The 25-year old admitted she was not sure of ever going to the Olympics again but now that she has qualified,

the next 10 months would be all about training and strategising.

“I think I have only benefited from changing my weight category. I have won medals in every competition this year. I have already begun writing down the good and bad from my bouts at the

Worlds, listing my opponents and their strengths,” she said.

**Not about medal**

Sushil, meanwhile, insists on pushing himself. He suffered a first-round ouster at the Worlds but his participation, he said, was never about me-

dal.

“Honestly, I did not want to participate at the Worlds. I have not had enough training and I have not had enough mat time in terms of competition. But my coach said you have to participate in every competition possible. It feels good to be back on mat,” he said.

Sushil knows the talk around his future.

“People have been saying since 2008 (when he won Olympic bronze) that I have achieved a lot. My performance has improved since Asian Games. I can promise you will see techniques and moves rarely seen before from me hereon,” he declared.

“I did not target the Worlds immediately after Asiad and concentrated on Asians, which was a mistake. Two months training is not enough for this level, I have to work on my stamina, but it is showing results. I became defensive in the last one minute when I should have gone for an attack at Worlds but you keep learning,” he said.



At the launch: Divya Kakran, Sushil Kumar, Vinesh Phogat, Sarita Mor and Sandeep Tomar at the ZEE Kushti Dangal. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## ADVERTISEMENT

# Taneira Celebrates Khadi – The fascinating fabric of diversity

For long Khadi, has been a symbol of Indian persistence; a fabric which has given Indian resurgence new meaning. This year, as we celebrate 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, it gives us an opportune moment to re-contextualize the meaning of the “humble charkha” for modern India. Taneira has re-imagined Khadi as the “fabric of diversity” and has launched Parichay-a collection of 150 never seen before masterpieces of Khadi sarees.



A silk khadi Kanjeevaram adorned with traditional annapakshi motifs

Challenging the stereotype of Khadi as “modest coarse cotton”, Taneira has explored a broad spectrum of yarns ranging from silk to muslin and dupion to eri. Debunking the plain, rough and earthy toned Khadi, Taneira’s sarees have artistically been handcrafted in bright colours, vibrant hues and adorned in intricate embellishments. Each of these 150 masterpieces of art stands a testament to the versatility and magic of Khadi. A dedicated team of designers from Taneira worked closely with the master artisans to create these beauties.

Traversing the length and breadth of our country, the collection showcases glorious Khadi Banarasi from north to royal Khadi Kanjeevaram sarees from south, ethereal Bengal jamdani from east to Gujarat Ashavali from west. Laboriously handwoven with exquisitely detailed motifs and designs authentic to their origin, these silk weaves are paragon of the exemplary Indian craftsmanship. A revamp to the

concept of Khadi, these rich works of art are sheer joy to adore.

From the simple floral patterns of Kantha stitch and Rajasthani Applique to the delicate detailing of Chikankari and the grandeur of Gota patti, Taneira’s hand-embroidered saree collection revives Khadi to reflect ethnic elegance. The bold beauty of zardozi on a delicate fine count muslin saree is certain to take your breath away.

Taneira’s collection also brings together a precious assemblage of hand-printed and hand-painted Khadi sarees. From the mystical charms of Madhubani and Kalamkari to the mesmerising precision of Ajrakh and Bagru prints, this melange of artistry is bound to re-establish Khadi as chic and contemporary.

While establishing Khadi as an elegant and versatile fabric, Taneira also pays homage to the magnificence and finesse of Indian craftsmanship. Patan Patola, one of the most revered and coveted weaves in India, has



Silk Khadi Patan Patola dyed with natural colors

been dyed with vegetable dyes, handwoven with Khadi silk yarns by highly skilled master craftsmen as a part of this collection.

A handspun and handwoven saree is a labour of love, highly enduring and demanding. With each of its masterpieces carefully handcrafted by diverse groups of artisans from across the country, Taneira is glorifying Khadi as the “Fabric of diversity” by connecting the contrasts and weaving harmony.

To be a part of this celebration of the extraordinary skills of Indian craftsmen and refashioning of India’s signature fabric, visit Parichay, by Taneira. A

unique experiential walk through Taneira’s exclusive Khadi collection, Parichay is open to all and runs from 24th to 28th September 11am to 8 pm at the Crafts Museum, New Delhi. These 150 masterpieces are waiting to be owned and can be reserved during the exhibition. Come witness as Khadi weaves together history, diversity and identity and turns itself into an entity of expression at Parichay.

**Taneira is open 7 days a week, 11:00 AM to 9:00 PM At South Extension I, Block H 011-47079995 and at Ambience Mall Ground floor , Vasant Kunj 011-40870792**